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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

MUNICIPAL RECORDS.

Worcester in Olden Times. By John Noake. 12mo. Worcester: the Booksellers. London: Longmans.

We rejoice at the new and increasing interest taken in all classes of historical records by those who are fortunate enough to possess them, whether as individuals or as public bodies. It is a good spirit, which, if we mistake not, has grown up with the Archaeological Association, and which its annual meetings in different parts are calculated to spread abroad through the country. The first impulse was, we believe, given to it, as far as regards the municipal records of our cities and corporate towns, by Mr. Wright's paper at the meeting at Canterbury; and in most of the places at which the meetings have since been held, popular reports on the nature and condition of the public records have been made by that gentleman, or by some other member of the Association; and the excellent lecture given by Mr. Black at the recent meeting at Chester has done much to make such records more generally understood and appreciated. It is not, however, merely by paper or lecture thus read in the hurry of the meeting, and the effects of which are naturally of comparatively short duration, that the local antiquaries and authorities are taught to value their antique stores, but it is by that intellectual intercourse which such meetings produce between men who might otherwise never meet,—an intercourse which brings the wider knowledge gained by a more extensive comparison of antiquarian and historical remains, to awaken an interest in things which had, in most cases, been concealed from the light, and had therefore been neglected. It is in this manner that the Archaeological meeting at Worcester last year, and the presence there of men who took an interest in local records, although no paper was brought forward on the subject, that called the attention of Mr. Noake, a gentleman already favourably known by his popular volume, the *Rambles in Worcestershire*, to the municipal records of that city, and that thus produced the little work now before us.

Unfortunately, it is not every city or town which can now furnish the materials for volumes of this description. Corporations and their town clerks have been bad guardians of historical records. At various periods, for one reason or other, sometimes in the hope of destroying with them the evidence of their own misdeeds, often because they looked upon them as mere rubbish, the ruling bodies have destroyed the whole, or a large part of their records. We could point out at least one instance in our own days where the whole of the municipal records, with the exception of the charters and some of the modern chamberlains' books, have been thus wantonly destroyed. Vast quantities of records of this description perished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in most cases probably from ignorance and carelessness, for, with the Reformation and the political convulsions which followed, many of the older observances fell into neglect, being often intimately woven up with the now despised faith of the older age, and the spirit, more especially among the inhabitants of towns, was one of looking forward, and not one of looking back. In the hands of the sort of men who now became possessed of them, the records of the past were too often regarded as useless lumber. It is from these various circumstances that we too often find the archives of our municipal corporations scanty and unprofitable. To follow the Archaeological Association through its as yet brief perambulation, we may observe that at Canterbury they

were rich, and at present carefully attended to; at Winchester, the few which remained had been deposited in the roof of a building which was not water-proof, and they were perishing from rot; at Southampton, the records were valuable, tolerably numerous, and now kept with care; at Gloucester, where they must at some period have been exposed to ruthless destruction, there were scarcely any left to be taken care of; at Worcester, some of the more valuable classes of records appear to have perished altogether, although enough has been left to furnish, in the hands of Mr. Noake, an instructive and amusing volume. In most cases, when first inquired after, the authorities are not aware that their records have any particular interest, and they are preserved only as being old papers and parchments of the corporation.

The character and interest of these records, where preserved, vary much in different places; and even the particular classes of records common to all are much more full and valuable in one place than in another, from the peculiar manner in which they have been kept, or from some circumstances connected especially with the particular town. Thus, a class of records of peculiar interest, as illustrating the manners of the time—the court rolls of the sessions held by the municipal magistrates—are in some towns preserved from a very early period: we have seen instances in which they reach back even to the thirteenth century, while in others they have all been destroyed. These, in many instances, are mere brief entries of the names of persons, the crime laid to their charge, and the judgment; but here and there—and we can mention as instances Canterbury and Ludlow (the latter especially)—they are not only entered more fully, but it has been the custom since the end of the fifteenth century to preserve with them the original depositions of witnesses, and then they are invaluable. In many cases the corporations became possessed, in the sixteenth century, of monastic foundations in their towns, or of foundations of a charitable or educational character, such as guilds and colleges, and then the older records of these subordinate bodies were transferred to the corporation archives, and formed new varieties of records, left to employ the researches of the historical antiquary. The class of records most generally preserved, as we have stated above, are the chamberlains' books, containing the annual accounts of the income and expenditure of the municipal body. In some cases, though, unfortunately, too rare, these reach back through the fourteenth century; in others none have been preserved since the seventeenth. These also differ much in different places. Occasionally, the general heads only of expenditure are inserted—the sum total of each different account—and then they are comparatively useless; in others, the particulars are entered at full; while in others, again, the guardians of these records have carefully preserved with them the original accounts and vouchers, and then they are still more valuable. To explain to the general reader the peculiar interest of this class of records, it may be necessary to state that before the time of the Commonwealth, the expenditure of the revenue of the corporation was left much more at the discretion of those who held it than in modern times, that it was very often called for by extraordinary circumstances, and that it was indeed extremely miscellaneous. These miscellaneous expenses were often classed under one head as "foreign expenses," or such as did not belong to the usual routine of corporation expenditure; and they become most interesting in periods of political turbulence, especially in cities or towns which were so situated

as to be obliged to take a prominent part in public affairs. Kent was proverbially a turbulent county, and the foreign expenses of the city of Canterbury afford valuable illustrations of English history, especially during the unsettled period of the wars of the rival roses, for the chamberlains' books during the fifteenth century are there preserved. If we remember right, there is in one year an account of the expenses of the corporation incurred in hanging their own mayor; and we remember one of the original vouchers for the expenses of a party of the city soldiers at the different places they stopped at in a hostile excursion, which is, in fact, a journal of their march. The chamberlains' books at Worcester, which commence with the year 1542, with a few of the more miscellaneous records, which we shall not particularize, constituted the principal materials on which Mr. Noake has founded a really meritorious little volume, and we wish that every municipal corporation had a historian equally intelligent.

After the foregoing observations, it is hardly necessary for us to state, what is not apparent from the title-page, that Mr. Noake's illustrations of *Worcester in Olden Times* are entirely taken from the corporation records. Without entering upon any philosophical views of the important subject of the history of our civic corporations, Mr. Noake has brought together, modestly and unpretendingly, a collection of extracts from the corporation books, more especially illustrating the manners and feelings of the citizens of Worcester during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which he has connected together by lively and popular explanations. He has classed them, judiciously enough, under a series of general heads, as they illustrate different matters connected with the history of corporate towns, commencing with the charters as defining the municipal constitution, and with the trades as the materials which were combined together in the aggregate body. The peculiar position which the trades—corporate bodies within and subordinate to the larger corporate body—held in the middle ages, explains sufficiently the many singular regulations which were made with regard to them. These arose most frequently from jealousy of each other, or of foreign intruders, but sometimes they originated in the extortions which particular trades were in the habit of practising, and in the necessity of protecting the rest of the community against them.

The two classes of tradesmen, by whose dishonesty people suffered most in the middle ages, were the bakers and brewers, for bread and ale were the two great articles of consumption. The readers of the old religious mysteries and legends will remember what a prominent place bakers and brewers, who cheated in the quality and quantity of their bread and ale, held in purgatory and even in a worse place. Of the former of these trades Mr. Noake observes:—

"The mayor and aldermen attended, at monthly or fortnightly intervals, at the Tolsey, in the Corn-Market, for the purpose of weighing bread, butter, and other articles; and the chamberlains' accounts are swollen with the charges for ale, meat, and tobacco, consumed by his worship and his peers in their inquisitorial capacity. No baker was allowed to have more than one person for one house to buy corn at any one market day. In the time of Elizabeth they were strictly confined to the statute of Winchester, and sold their bread at a penny per loaf. No baker who had given up business was allowed to take to it again on prospect of benefiting by the increased price of corn. No person to make Wicbold cake. The cakes of any 'fornriner' found in the city to be forfeited; and no innholder to take in foreigners' cakes or buns to sell. There was actually an order

made in 1641, constituting it an offence for the Worcester bakers to make 'spiced bread or short cakes,' inasmuch as it 'enhanced the price of butter.' How oddly would this sound in the ears of the present generation!"

The brewers were, in the first year of the reign of King Edward VI, the subject of the following regulation:—

"It is enacted by the auctorite aforesed, that every brewer from henceforth do make but one manner of ale, and that it be good and wholesome, upon paine of dysfrenchesyng, after the ratt of one penny a gallon of the best, and three gallons for a penny of the other sorte; and that no citizen nor other do feche no ale at St. John's nor elsewhere above thees p'ces or certain pains.

Upon which Mr. Noake observes—

"These prices were changed and fixed from time to time (according to the prie of malt) by the council chamber, or the 'grand enquest at the lawday,' on which inquest not more than two brewers were permitted. The corporation aleasters in those days must have been men of large experience, for no brewer was allowed to go on with the process of 'tonnyng' until he had put a sign at his door, whereby the taster might know when and where to 'drop in' to receive his drops and fee. The quaint phraseology of the times describe these tasters as 'saide and discrete persons,' ordained to see that the ale be good and sweet. Of the sadness and discretion of these functionaries I have, nevertheless, strong doubts. These two attributes do not usually run together, for the sadness of the morning is generally occasioned by the lack of discretion on the previous night. The aleasters laid their informations, as to any defaults, weekly; and, singular enough, the corporation, not being content with the critical acumen of their own officers, became tasters themselves, and laid heavy penalties on any brewer who sold his ale before 'the baili, aldermen, and chamb' had tasted hit, seen hit, and disposid hit to sale after the goodness of hit.' In the time of Philip and Mary the aleaster was disfranchised if he refused to serve the office. The following was the aleasters' oath:—'You shall resort to every brewer's house within this city on their tunning day, and thereto to taste their ale, whether it be good and wholesome for man's body, and whether they make it from time to time according to the prices fixed—So help you God.'

The mutual jealousies of the different trades were quite remarkable, and were especially violent against foreigners who attempted to establish themselves in the town, or who came to the markets or fairs. There was one class of personages—generally 'foreigners,'—the minstrels or ballad singers, who were objects of great suspicion to the ruling authorities, not only, as Mr. Noake appears to think, in the time of the commonwealth, but at a much earlier period. He remarks:—

"The unfortunate fraternity of ballad singers was for a long time during the Commonwealth peculiarly obnoxious to the moral disciplinarians of Worcester.

"1649.—'We do order and ordain that all ballad singers shall be put out by the heels.'

"1653.—'It is ordered that to suppress all ballad singers, their ballads shall be burnt and themselves imprisoned by the space of three dayes.'

"And the same punishment was adjudged to those who 'sang profane songs to the dishonour of God and religion.' In the ancient by-law book was this item:—

"That noe ps on whatever shall from henceforth be tolerated or suffered to bring to this city, upon the market dayes or any other dayes, aney ballads, and within this city and libertie of the same to sing the same, whereupon much damage and p'judice may ensue to many of the king's majesty's liege subjects."

"In 1659 it was ordered—

"That ballad singers be put in the stocks.'

"For many years previous to this, a 'beddel of vacabunds and sturdy beggars' was mentioned, whose duty it probably was to hunt up these and such like scurvy itinerants. He was 'to have a garment of white and blue, and a staff that he may be known by.' What a contrast does this present to the eleventh,

twelfth, and thirteenth centuries, when no festivity was deemed complete which was not set off with the exercise of the minstrel's talents, who was every where received with respect."

The reason why this class of wanderers was obnoxious, is not generally understood. They held exactly the place which publishers of seditions and scandalous writings hold in modern times. If a popular insurrection were to be got up, the minstrels and ballad singers were busy with their ballads, inciting to it; they sang, under the Reformation, ballads against the pope of Rome; and in times of civil discontent, ballads against the king and his counsellors; in the older wars between baron and baron, and in later disputes between persons of influence, they with their ballads for the occasion, were the great incendiaries; they incited insurrections of the citizens against their civic rulers; and by propagating private scandal widened the breaches between citizen and citizen. They were not only the political incendiaries, but they were the "Paul Prys" of their age. Hence the authorities willingly classed them among "vagabonds," and took every opportunity of punishing them with severity. Curiously enough, from the account of the persecution for religion of a young man in Worcester, in the last year of the reign of Henry VIII, printed from Foxe by Mr. Noake, it appears that it was by a ballad that he gave most offence to the ecclesiastics—"After this, came to him one Jolyfe and R. Yewer, two canons, which had his writings against the six articles, and his ballad called 'Come down for all your shaven crowne,' to see whether he would stand to that he had written."

The expenditure for the corporation feasting, which was carried upon such an extensive scale in former times, furnish many amusing articles; and the sums of money spent in treating or making presents to persons, whose services were required by the citizens, are perfectly astonishing. It appears that even under the Commonwealth and the Protectorate, the priests who officiated at fasts and humiliations were obliged to be treated with sack. Thus in 1658, the year of the great Protector's death, Mr. Noake quotes the following item:—

"1658.—'For a pottle of sack given to four ministers who preached and prayed Dec. 27, on the fast day, 4s.'

And Mr. Noake adds:—

"In 1650 the Chief Baron Wilde was treated to a lamprey pie and salmon, and subsequently the following entries occur:

"Twelve lampries to make fower pies presented to the Lord General and to the Lord Chief Baron. £01 00 00

"To Luke Hodges, for materials and making the said pies . . . 01 06 06

"Eight lampries to make two pies presented to Mr. Lechmor and Mayor Salloway, (M.P.s) . . . 00 18 08

"Pd. Ed. Reddinge for meale, butter, bisnests, and his labour for making them . . . 00 11 00

"Carriage of the sa pies to London. 00 12 00"

"Twelve shillings (nearly equal to 10*l.* of our present money) for carrying a few pies to London!"

"Members of parliament, too, regularly received a fillip from their constituents on new year's day.

"1641.—'Payed for two prys and for capons sent to Mr. Ald. Cowcher and Mr. Ald. Nashe, the citizens for the Parliament, as a New year's gift . . . 03 02 06'"

There can be no doubt that all mayors, aldermen, common councilmen, &c. &c., have been from time immemorial addicted to festive celebrations of their duties and business. "Perhaps," observes Mr. Noake, "in no one feature were the habits of ancient corporate bodies more dissimilar to those of the present day than in their public gustative celebrations. The most insignificant matters of business, as well as public and national events, were made an excuse for potations 'long and deep.' Equally indifferent as to whether it was at the proclamation of a new sovereign or the decease of an old one—the news of peace or war—the

Gunpowder Plot or the Restoration—the inspection of corporate lands or the supervision of the repairs of the town ditch—a conference about a new act of parliament or the framing a by-law on the size of quart pots—the governors of the city in those days, however much they may have differed among each other on political and social questions, agreed to drown in the bowl all those minor considerations, and the chamberlain's accounts for many years are to a great extent made up of such items as the following:—

"Spent at the venison eating at the Crowne	£00 17 4
"For ale sent for by Mr. Mayor when the governor was at the hall conferring about the bulwark (1643)	00 00 12
"Spent by Mr. Maior and aldermen at Claines (1685), when they went to procure teams for hauling pebbles to mend the Foregate	00 03 00
"For eating [the charge is for eating!] of a buck at the Talbot at the Crosse, sent by Mr. B. Berkeley, more than was collected	04 10 06
"For beare and tobacco spent that time	00 04 10"

If our space permitted it, we might quote numerous extracts from the municipal records of Worcester, as given by Mr. Noake, illustrative of the singular manner in which the corporation attended to the health and morals of the citizens, to the local customs and ceremonies of various kinds, to the sports of the populace, to the election and support of members to represent the city in parliament, to the ceremonials attendant upon royal and other visits, and to a variety of other matters connected with the history of the "faithful" city of Worcester in former times. We must, however, take our leave of a book which has afforded us much amusement, and to which we have already devoted more space than we often afford to works of the same magnitude. We will make only one more extract, which illustrates a curious point in the early history of this island. Mr. Noake observes:—

"1653.—The corporation instituted a suit against several parties for compensation respecting digging of cinders in Little Pitchcroft. These were iron cinders, or scorie, which had accumulated there in Roman times, and had remained ever since. The cinders so found were valuable, inasmuch as the Romans, not being acquainted with the best means of extracting the metal, left their cinders but half used, and, wherever found, they are eagerly taken for the purpose of re-smelting. Andrew Yarranton, of Astley, a great traveller and writer, in a work published in 1698, says—

"About twenty-eight years since Mr. Yarranton found out a vast quantity of Roman cinders near the walls of the city of Worcester, from whence he and others carried away many thousand tons or loads up the river of Severn unto their iron furnaces, to be melted down into iron, with a mixture of the Forest of Dean iron-stone; and within one hundred yards of the walls of the city of Worcester there was dug up one of the hearths of the Roman foot-blasts, it being then firm and in order, and was seven feet in the earth; and by the side of the work there was found out a pot of Roman coine, to the quantity of a peck, some of which was presented to Sir Dugdale, and part thereof is now in the King's Closet: by all which circumstances it clearly appears that the Romans made iron in England, and as far up the river Severn as the city of Worcester, where as yet there are vast quantities remaining."

Mr. Noake need not have added, "some suppose these remains to have been Saxon, and that the Romans could not have been so ignorant of the arts as is implied in the above statement." There can be no doubt of these remains being Roman, and they are found very extensively in the forest of Dean, and in the parts of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire bordering upon it, as well as in the south-eastern parts of our island. The Romans appear to have had very extensive iron-works in this country.



We will merely add our satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Noake has performed his voluntarily imposed task, and our hope that he may meet with full success in this and in every similar undertaking. It is seldom that we receive a provincial publication of this kind, of the merits of which we can speak with so little hesitation.

NOVEL CANT.

The Rectory Guest: a Novel. By the author of "The Gambler's Wife," "Sybil Lennard," &c. &c. 3 vols. Newby.

THERE was once on a time a little boy whom his mamma took during the holidays to see the play, where they enacted a tragedy, at which, towards the close, he yawned awfully, instead of showing the delight anticipated from his first visit to a theatre. "What do you think of the acting, my dear?" inquired Mamma, as the curtain descended. "I don't like it much," was the reply; "it is almost as dull as a sermon"—for the poor boy had the misfortune to attend a church endowed with an exceedingly prosy incantation.

And so may we say of this novel. It is a tissue of dullness, only relieved by what is disagreeable to the moral sense, and unnatural. To call it a novel is absurd, for the spun-out story would not occupy half a volume, and all the rest is tedious preaching, and repetition of insignificances. To waste any time on such stuff would be as ridiculous as itself; and it is only because it belongs to that pretending and mistaken class of works, which in a weak zeal for religion, so mixes it up with worldliness and folly, as to turn the grave into farce, and the sacred into the ludicrous. Such doings do injury to right feelings, and bring contempt upon what ought to be holy. The least objectionable of them are injudicious, the most objectionable (of which this is a specimen) obnoxious.

The Rectory Guest is a beautiful young lady, of the novel-descriptive caste, marble brows, marvellous eyes, parted lips, hair as long and soft as Lady Godiva's, and such an expression of countenance, &c. &c. &c., and all so lovely, so stricken by some secret sorrow, and so mysterious, that for more than a volume you do not know what to make of her. But she keeps a diary, and she takes an overdose of laudanum, whether accidentally, or designedly, or both mixed into one motive, is not quite clear; but the results are that you get into her biography, which she has not confided to the most virtuous Rector, his wife, his sister, his wife's mother (or Granny, as she is called), his cook, Maggie, or his little bustling housemaid, who has been converted into lady's maid for the nonce, to wait upon the Guest. And thus we learn that she has been a very envious and wicked girl towards her most exemplary twin sister, though they are in outward appearance as like each other as two peas: so like, indeed, that beaux and lovers are apt to fall into blunders, and dance with or court the one instead of the other. After some of these *contretemps*, Marcia Norton the unamiable, plots her sister Magdalen Norton the amiable, out of Dudley Ravensworth, the Apollo of the tale; and causes so much misery to their impassioned souls as nothing on earth can equal. About the same time, or soon after, she engages to marry one Buchan, the son of a fatily-beneficed clergyman, and the friend of Dudley; so that it should seem her malevolent supplanting of her sister proceeded from no overwhelming cause. Be that as it might, however, Dudley's father, an enormously wealthy commoner about half-a-century old, becomes a widower, by the death of a horrid ill-tempered shrew of a wife, and falls in love with Magdalen, whom and his son the misunderstanding has been created by the arts and falsehood of Marcia. The ballad of Auld Robin Gray is consequently enacted, and the heart-broken, disappointed Magdalen marries the senior Ravensworth, after a crushing interview with the junior, on the ante-nuptial eve, when all her sister's atrocity in separating them is uncovered. Old Ravensworth will not give up his bride, and Buchan, disgusted by the treachery of his

affianced fair, bolts with friend Dudley from the distressing scene, rendered the more distressing by the father (we cannot find a reason why) cutting off the son without a shilling, in revenge, as it were, for cutting him out of the idol of his devoted love.

By and by, the worthiness and Christian simplicity of life at the Rectory have wrought a change in the breast of the repentant Marcia. Reconciliations ensue, and lead out, change partners, *et cetera*, supervene. Magdalen has a ticklish game to play in bringing about a re-union between her husband and his son, her former admirer. In short, the elderly gentleman does not much like it; but his wife makes so good a use of their baby, introducing him to his brother Dudley, and committing other little fond tricks, that she manages the matter, in the end, pretty well to their mutual satisfaction. Then Buchan returns to his allegiance; Dudley finds another squaw; somebody else marries her sister; and, indeed, we believe they are all married somehow or other, except, perhaps, Granny, who, instead of taking a husband, consoles herself (page 290, vol. iii.) with knitting pairs of "wedding garters" for the three more juvenile brides, who are coupled within the concluding year of this strange history. Old Ravensworth buys an estate for the son he had so groundlessly hated and persecuted; Mrs. Buchan also has a baby, and turns out a good-natured saint; and Dudley forgets all his romantic passion and cruel severance from his mother-in-law, in the arms of Miss Wynyard, though she is a little "crooked on the right side," but is an heiress, and brings him a large fortune.

It will be seen from this rough sketch, which is painfully extracted from the drivel of sentiment and cant, that the "Rectory Guest" runs on very slippery ground; the passion of two individuals, in the relation of father and son, for one woman, and that woman madly attached to the latter, though she wed the former, being, to say the least of it, a nasty sort of connexion. Nor is the manner and treatment more pleasant to the mind than the matter and results; whilst the deep tinge of human pomps and selfish considerations which colour the whole prove that the parading of religious principles and their effects is merely outward pretence and unreal mockery, destitute of the warmth and depth of true Christian feeling. We will quote a few passages to illustrate the very unfavourable opinions we have expressed upon this teeming writer, whose writings we deem to be prejudicial to the public welfare, and only not poisonous, because of their want of power. Here is a sample of the Rector's family and their Guest.

Miss Norton expressed, nevertheless, the desire to attend the afternoon service, which neither the health nor strength of Mrs. Müller or the age of Mrs. Jameson often enabled them to do; and overriding the fears expressed by them, lest, after her late illness, the fatigue might be too great—she accompanied Mr. Müller and his sister-in-law, when the afternoon bells sounded their second summons. One service, in real life, is I am aware enough and too much for most people; and to be led—in a book—twice to church in the wake of the heroine will be enough. I am aware, to cause this volume at once to be by many voted dull, unreadable—in short—a religious novel—a class of writing the public and the reviewers are trying alike to condemn! But though we have no such presumptuous intention, we must, having begun the subject, carry out the Sunday to its end, promising that what has been hitherto written, is intended but as a sample of the life upon which the border guest of the country Rectory started, and that it is by no means our purpose to continue in the same unexciting strain.

In the mean time, a page out of Miss Norton's private journal—that black morocco book upon her table, secured from prying eyes by the silver key she wears fastened to the steel *chatelaine* at her girdle, in which, with her fair hand, she has recorded her own impressions of the day—may give an interest which our dull pen may fail to impart. * * *

"Sunday, March.—Awoke, feeling better, and finding by the church bells, which at eight o'clock

began to chime most merrily, that it was Sunday, I determined to exert myself, rise, and go to church.

"It would rouse me from the horrible languor and prostration of mind, which, I believe, has, more than real bodily illness, paralysed my energies for the last few days, if it did me no other good.

"I found the family at breakfast, as kind and cordial as ever, and as cheerful, though it was Sunday—A day on which most religious people, I believe, think it necessary to wear such sad countenances, and speak such dull, sober words!

"But their conversation, ever as free from worldly levity and any manner of evil, as it is from all cant and pharisaical stiffness, needs, I suppose, little change of tone or tenor to suit the times and the seasons.

"As for me—how few have my words been of late!—I could almost count those I have uttered since I came into this house; these good people must indeed think they have the 'silent woman' amongst them—or rather, 'one possessed with a devil which was dumb.' I wonder excellent Mr. Müller does not try to exorcise it.

"Ah! he had better not—well for me and my friends had the foul spirit within me ever been 'one that was dumb.'

"The letters were not on the breakfast table, as on the former mornings, but seeing some put aside upon the chimney-piece, and mechanically fixing my eyes upon them, they I suppose interpreted my look as one of anxiety on my own account, for Mrs. Müller informing me that it was not the custom of their family to open any letters, except upon peculiar occasions, till after the Sunday service, added, 'But there are none arrived for you, my dear, or of course you should have had them given to you.'

"I fancied I discerned a slight expression of surprise in their countenances as she thus broke to me this, as I have no doubt she supposed, disappointing intelligence. In a week's time they thought most probably it would have been but natural for me to have had some communication with the friends and relations from whom I must have parted. But I received the intelligence with the most stoic indifference, nor moved I a muscle of my countenance, nor changed a shade of colour.

"No—no more exposures, no more scenes, please God!"

Can any one tell the tedium of being obliged to read hundreds of pages similar to these? It is almost stimulating when she swallows the laudanum, and there is a bustle in the bed-chamber above, whilst Granny indulges in her usual afternoon nap below; for "Mrs. Jameson was contented, after a little anxious talk, to be left seated quietly alone, resigned and trustful that all was being done for the best in her absence, and that an old body like herself was better out of the way; and soon in spite of the anxious concern excited in her mind she sank into her usual placid evening's nap—little dreaming what dark dismay and horrible dread was spoiling the sweet repose and calm Sabbath enjoyment, usually shedding its comforting influence at this hour over her home of piety and peace. * * *

"Yes, in quiet slumber were gently closed for a while the dimmed eyelids of the infirm and aged saint, whilst in the chamber above, the deep, deep sleep that 'knows no waking,' seemed pressing down the smooth, cold, marble lids of the young and beautiful as the summer flower, the strong and lusty as the eagle!"

What this may mean we cannot advise our readers; but we will treat them with an extract of Miss Norton's quite extraordinary diary, which she leaves open on her table as she sips the narcotic.

"Hark! there are the church bells—the wedding bells—I was going to write, but these few more drops have bewildered me—these church bells' sweet, cheerful sound—what a time now to sleep! But, gracious Father! so that in seeking this I do not sin unto death, grant it to be a long, long sleep.

"I will lie down upon my bed—my mother's medicine in my hand, till the slumber comes—and will at least pray, as if it were to be the sleep of death.

"How strangely my childhood's prayer comes before my mind—

"Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed;
Teach me to die, that so I may
Rise glorious on the awful day."

"Have I so lived?—shall I so die?"

"I will leave this open, and before lying down just write a few lines, which, if anything should happen—should I never rise again, may explain—"

It is odd enough that the young lady's French governess should have been a *Mademoiselle le Roux*. (vol. i., p. 287.)

Wearied and annoyed ourselves, we wish not to tire our readers, and shall therefore only justify our censures. When Mrs. Ravenscroft recalls Dudley from his banishment in order to give his father a disagreeable surprise, and bring about their reconciliation, we read—

"It was one night then early in the April of this same spring, that the servants of Great Norton were summoned, by the ringing of the hall-door bell, to admit a visitor, who on entering, without further announcement or inquiry, was immediately recognised, not without a start and stare of mingled pleasure and amaze from the domestics, as their master's eldest son, Mr. Dudley Ravensworth. Too absorbed apparently in his own emotions to notice, by any answering sign of acknowledgment, the demonstrations of welcome his appearance thus excited, the young man in a hoarse, agitated tone of voice merely inquiringly mentioned, whilst divesting himself of his travelling apparel, the name of his father, and learnt—whether to his relief or dismay was perhaps a matter of doubt even to himself—that Mr. Ravensworth was not at home—that he had gone to attend some public dinner at —, that it was uncertain whether he would return this night or the following morning—but—and the old butler, as if interpreting the nature of the question his young master's lips attempted to articulate, hastened to add:

"But, sir, Mrs. Ravensworth is in her *boudoir*."

"One moment's almost fainting pause—and then with strong effort at outward self-control, Dudley Ravensworth, without trusting his voice to speak again, made a sign that there he would go, and with faltering, slow, heavy steps, followed the servant, who hastened to conduct him to the apartment mentioned.

"The mansion had been renovated and newly adorned for the occupation of his father's bride. At any other period, when his mind had been more at large, Dudley would scarcely have known it for the same old, and somewhat neglected habitation of former times; much less would he have been likely to recognise the so-called *boudoir*, the private sitting-room of the new mistress of the house into which he was now ushered, and where, in another moment, he found himself standing, the door closed behind him, by the retiring servant—alone, in the presence of its beautiful and queen-like occupant.

"Magdelen, at the opening of the door, and the low and somewhat mysteriously toned announcement of the old domestic, which followed, had risen from the —, near which she had been seated reading, and stood for one instant stunned, aghast by the startling shock with which this abrupt surprise overwhelmed her whole frame and feelings. True, she herself had conjured up this apparition, had bade him come, and that without long delay, had also advised that the circumstances of his arrival should be attended with no such appraisal or preparation as might give his father opportunity to prevent, or to deny its prosecution.

"All this was true—yet she had certainly expected some degree of notice—of preparation—something less abrupt—an answer; some less daring and startling manner of executing her counsel. Then the step he had thus taken, and the strong, the overpowering agitation which rushed to her heart at this dreared moment, were irrepressible.

"And he standing there, with that haggard, woe-worn countenance, and those melancholy eyes fixed

with such a bewildered gaze upon her! But her self-possession did not forsake her, she did not forget herself, save for that first bewildering instant—the next, she was advancing—startled surprise still painted in her countenance, and speaking in her trembling voice, but holding out her hand, and with the warmth and welcome of a mother, murmuring: 'Dudley!'

"Her hand was received mechanically, whilst in broken, incoherent accents, her visitor answered to this greeting some hurried words, explanatory of his sudden arrival.

"Then, as if all self-possession and collectedness were rapidly failing him, he dropped the hand he had retained unconsciously in his own, and approaching the mantel-piece, leant his elbow thereon, turning his eyes with a kind of stunned, bewildered expression upon all around him. And Magdelen stood there silent and confused, by her own fears and perplexity.

"What should she do? or what should she say, wisely to break this painful spell, from which the anguish she knew must needs be fraught with tenfold distress and agony?

"In this emergency, her eye fell upon an object, which suggested to her a means of furthering this purpose—one well worthy of a woman's delicate tact.

"She had not been all this lonely evening in solitary possession of the apartment.

"Close to where she sat, beside the very hearth on which Dudley stood, rested a richly ornamented cradle, or, in polite phrase, a *bassinet*, raised upon a carved and gilded stand, and there a lovely babe lay slumbering gently, reckless and unconscious of all that was passing around him.

"Storms may rush in, and crimes and woes

Deform that quiet bower,

They may not mar the deep repose

Of that immortal flower.

Though only broken hearts be found

To watch his cradle by,

No blight is on his slumbers found,

No touch of harmful eye."

"Dudley," murmured the young mother, eagerly seizing the suggestion. "Dudley!" and she spoke in the gentlest, and most cheering tone—"look at your little brother!"

"The young man started, and looked down with a moody eye upon the cradle, which had, perhaps before, vaguely attracted his bewildered attention. But he did not move.

"Look!" she again said, as bending down, she drew aside the embroidered drapery, and by her mild, commanding eye, her kind, sweet smile, signed him to approach, and then Dudley slowly advancing the necessary step, bent slightly over the beautiful infant.

"The brother murmured some confused, commonplace words of commendation, but his heart seemed little with his words; rather might the stifled sigh—the sick and jealous look with which he again raised his head and turned away, have seemed to express sentiments much like those of the injured Esau—

"Why mock me by making me to look on him. Have I not rather cause for bitter hatred at his sight, for hath he not supplanted me these two times?—first in the person of his father with you—and now he bids fair to take away my birthright from me also—

But the ice, however inauspiciously, was at least effectually broken.

"You have heard, I suppose, that your father is from home," Magdelen next said, in a low but firm tone; "he may return probably to-night; but at all events it will be better, perhaps, that you should not meet till—till I have prepared him for the surprise. And you," she continued, with the gentle solicitude of a sister, on seeing Dudley, as she spoke these words, become paler still, and lean against the mantel-piece, "and you are tired—exhausted—you must have some refreshment, and then take rest before—"

"She rang the bell, and sitting down, till the summons was answered, the painful silence was resumed.

"Bring refreshments, and let Mr. Dudley Ravensworth's apartment be prepared," Magdelen then said, with the composure with which such orders would

be issued by a mother, on occasion of the somewhat sudden arrival of an expected son.

"But now the stunned and dreary calm seemed breaking—the dreaded storm of inward emotion to be rallying within that son's breast.

"Magdelen, all this, in a hoarse and broken voice he ejaculated, when the door once more closed upon them, 'all this is fearfully strange and unnatural—I can scarcely as yet realize and understand my bewildering position; but Magdelen—mother, he added with heartbroken bitterness, 'I came at your command—it is you therefore who must control—direct, my conduct—my actions, for good heavens! my brain—my reason seems stunned and incapable of thought or action, and what I should do—what it is permitted to me to think, or feel, I scarcely know.'

"Let it be so then," Magdelen answered, meeting with gentle severity the wild, uncertain expression emanating from Dudley's eyes. "To whom could you better commit the regulation of your conduct than to your mother—your father's wife?"

"My mother?" he exclaimed with a stifled groan.

"Yes, Dudley, your mother—your father's wife!" she again repeated with stern determination, as if she wished to impress that name, and the idea conveyed by it more vividly on his imagination; "therefore, she added, 'be strong—be courageous, and all will be well.'

"Well—well!" he repeated in broken-hearted bitterness, 'this is mockery—how can it ever be well—with me, at least. To you, Magdelen, my father's wife, it may indeed be well—your husband—your child have pressed me from your heart; but I—what good—what hope in life remains for me?"

"Is there no good—no hope—no happiness promised to the resigned to God's will; is there no support in the consciousness of having performed one's duty, in noble fortitude and triumphant virtue? But I called you not here, Dudley, to treat of the past—the past must be dead, and sacred in its silence to your father's wife—to your mother! We must begin a new life together, Dudley," she added, with a sweet, serious earnestness, 'and in this new life I can still foresee for you, as for me, a future of peace and happiness."

"There was a pause filled up by the entrance of the servants with refreshments."

To us this scene is very offensive, and even Magdelen appears to have come queerly out of her race, for when her husband came home he was violently angry with her for it, jealous of her and his own son, and—

"Lulling his violence into dark and sullen submission, he sought his bed.

"Magdelen, too, laid down, but with a heart how sorely troubled, and afraid, may easily be imagined! When the sun broke upon the short, disturbed slumber which so late had closed her eyes, she started up with a heavy sense of the terrible anxiety and uncertainty as to what that day would bring forth.

"The nature of her husband's no less critical waking feelings did not immediately transpire, for he suffered his wife to leave the apartment without a word.

"She went into her dressing-room, and approaching the window, threw open the sash. It was a beautiful spring morning."

The father and son, however, came to a good understanding at breakfast together, and the former—

"Rose abruptly, with a few hasty steps crossed round the table to where his son still sat, and grasping the ready, outstretched hand, wrung it with strong emotion, murmuring:

"Dudley, my dear fellow, let us try to forget the past, and—"

"He could say no more."

"In spite of the plausible success which attended Dudley Ravensworth through this first ordeal, he also felt that for this time at least his strength and fortitude could not bear the very lengthened duration of so extreme a trial. Not that he feared his power of endurance giving way, but still the stern pain and difficulty that must attend the perfect healing of his

ill bleeding wound could not but be increased by his present situation.

"So the second morning of his stay he took occasion to hint his purposed departure on the morrow. His father appeared very warmly and hospitably concerned at this determination, and asked him why he need go so soon."

He goes to his friend Buchan, and attends his wedding with Marcia, and our author is unctuous in her pictures of these nuptial celebrations:—

"The usual vestry business was transacted in the aisle of the unpretending, little sanctuary, and then the bells rang a joyous peal, the school children showered down their flowers in the path of the wedded pair, who now issued forth, first, and together, the bride smiling, and nodding graciously to the little scholars through her glittering tears—the bridegroom looking supremely, tremulously happy, while the rest of the party followed in what order they pleased.

"Mr. Ravensworth, with all kindly respect, slowly attending the aged footsteps of Mrs. Jameson, his son offering his arm to the elder bridesmaid, Alice Wynyard, the others in heterogeneous mass surrounding the 'Squire, who was making himself agreeable and facetious to all around.

"And so the Rectory door once more closed them in from curious eyes; but only for a brief space of time, whilst the cake and wine were handed round, and the bride was dis-arrayed and re-robed in carriage costume. Then the equipages were re-called; and first came the elegant Britska—Mr. Ravensworth's gift to the newly married pair—and the bride and bridegroom were soon whirled from the door, to proceed direct on their northward bridal expedition, while the rest of the party, speedily following, were conveyed to Wynyard Hall, where the 'Squire had kindly insisted on being the provider of a wedding entertainment, on his usual hospitable scale."

Nothing scaly! and the elegant Britska—all so congenial to a religious novel, hurls them to the north, and we have a later glimpse of the consequences:—

"Now, Charles," says Marcia, "how can you laugh so loud? you will wake the baby, and what is it all about—why, you really don't mean to say it is over my unfortunate manuscript?"

"Yes, Marcia! do not scold me, for it is at my own expense I laugh, I assure you—but, indeed, I cannot help it. What a poor hen-pecked wretch you made of me in those days!—but, thank goodness, I have the reins in my own hands now."

"Have you, indeed, sir?" was the answer—"well, we shall see. Come, give it up."

"What! will you take it from me, just in so interesting a part?"

"Yes, till you are in a graver mood. There, now go and write your sermon—and let me hear you tell your parishioners next Sunday, that 'Fools only make a mock at sin.'

"And Granny had actually commenced knitting another pair of wedding garters."

Eh! jam satis! "

NEW ZEALAND.

An Account of the Settlement of New Plymouth, in New Zealand. By C. Hursthouse, jun. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. HURSTHOUSE resided at New Plymouth for five years, and represents it as the Garden of New Zealand, though less known to England than Auckland, Wellington, or Nelson. He consequently recommends it highly for emigration and agricultural settlement. Fuchsias from twenty to thirty feet in height, and fern trees of sixty feet, are among the beauties of its landscape, and the climate is most auspicious for the whole vegetable world.

"Taranaki, in common with the whole country, does not possess a single native quadruped; although from its dense cover, genial climate, and constant abundance of herbage, one might naturally expect to find some few herbaceous animals. This deficiency is, however, balanced by the absence of all reptiles; for there are none, excepting a few harmless lizards,

"Birds are rather numerous; and as they are generally of active habits, flitting from tree to tree as if, from the profusion around, they were embarrassed in their choice of food; as some are fine songsters, and others seem rivals in making the greatest possible noise, they give an air of pleasing liveliness and animation to the woods. One of the most common is the Tui, a bird of singular habits, and very amusing. It is always in motion, darting from some low bush to the topmost twig of a high tree, it will commence making such variety of strange noises, with such volume of tone, that it is difficult to believe they all proceed from the same small bird. Should another Tui chance to be near, it breaks off to indulge in a little fighting; and, ending with a kind of shout, will throw a somerset or two, and dart into the bush, only to re-commence another exhibition. This vivacious creature, sometimes called the Parson Bird, from its plumage, a glossy black, with two white feathers on the throat like bands, is larger than the blackbird, and, in the season of the Poroporo berries, gets very fat, and becomes excellent eating.

"The Kukupa, or pigeon, is about a third larger than the English stock-dove; its plumage is richly shaded with green, purple, and gold. It is rather a stupid bird, and easily shot: feeding on buds and berries, it possesses, when in season, a game flavour not unlike that of the blackcock."

"The Pukeko, in shape, is rather like the water-hen, but larger; its plumage is dark brown, slightly tinged with green, and a brilliant purple on the neck and breast. It is a shy, solitary bird, generally haunting rushy springs and old native gardens, where it digs up the potatoes, scooping them out in a curious manner.

"The Kaka, a large brown parrot, prettily marked with red, is rather a shy bird, and difficult to shoot. It utters a loud and peculiar cry, and is here generally seen, early in clear frosty mornings, flying about the highest trees.

"The Kakariki is an elegant parrot, with green plumage, touched with gold about the head. It is the only bird the least destructive to crops: in harvest, small troops of them are seen around the edges of the bush-land, carrying off ears of wheat.

"The Kotarekare resembles the king-fisher, although its plumage is much less brilliant. It is most common about cleared bush-land, feeding freely on caterpillars and other insects.

"The Tirakara is an elegant little fly-catcher, with black and white plumage, and a delicate fan tail; it is remarkably quick in its movements, and a great consumer of sand-flies.

"One of the most delightful songsters is the Makomako, rather like the green linnet, but larger. It is heard about sunrise, near the edges of the forest, when several sing together, and the effect can only be compared to the soft tinkling of numerous little bells.

"Wild ducks are not plentiful; they are seldom seen by day, but are occasionally found feeding at night on the stubbles. Of birds of prey there are but three varieties common to the district: the Kahu, a large brown buzzard, an expert rat-catcher, but fond of poultry; the Karewarewa, a sharp flying sparrow-hawk; and the Ruru, a small brown owl, hiding in the gloomiest recesses of the forest, and coming out to prey at night, when it utters a singular and discordant cry.

"It should be observed that, with the exception of pigeons and wild fowl, there is nothing for the sportsman. New Zealand is undoubtedly the worst country in the world for shooting; but this part of it, from climate, soil, cover, and productions, is well adapted to the introduction of game."

"This country, destitute of animals, and not particularly rich in birds, possesses many singular insects, a description of which would far exceed the compass of the present work. One of the most remarkable is the vegetable caterpillar. It is occasionally picked up in raking light bush land from five to six inches long, and nearly as thick as the finger. It has then the exact shape and marks of a

large dead caterpillar; but to the head is generally attached something like a piece of slender twig or small fibrous root. On snapping the body, it is found to be white and pithy—a kind of petrified vegetable substance.

"There are also a small caterpillar, destructive to barley when ripening; the common grasshopper; and a large one, flying something like a snipe. With the exception of a rare kind of fly, there is not a single stinging insect; and although mosquitoes and sand-flies are troublesome at first, yet even these seem to partake of the mild nature of the climate, and are innocuous as compared with those of America and Australia."

There are about 700 natives, and

"In personal appearance the men are superior to the women; their carriage is free and erect, and they are generally tattooed, though this custom is going out of fashion, and will not obtain with the rising generation. In complexion, many are no darker than gypsies; they are rather taller than Europeans, and perhaps stronger, though it may be questioned whether they possess the same power of endurance—equally good, or better, for a 'dash,' they would probably flag sooner under long-continued hard exertion. The women are of small stature, and generally of mean appearance. Willing drudges, the females work hard, and undergo considerable hardship, so that their beauty soon fades; in fact, it is difficult to picture anything less attractive than middle-aged women who have led a strictly native life; they look quite old, and are certainly dirtier than the men. Young girls, however, taken early from the pa, and attached to Europeans, gain habits of cleanliness and order, and improve surprisingly in appearance. Although rarely beautiful, they are good-tempered, lively, and affectionate.

"The usual dress of both sexes is the blanket; but the handsome flax mat, with a rich black fringe and tags, is still occasionally seen. * * *

"It cannot be doubted, that when once the question of 'land' is amicably settled with the natives, their presence in a district is highly advantageous; every year affording a better supply of labour, and materially increasing trade and exports. It has been superficially observed, that New Zealand would be a noble country if the aborigines were extinct; I believe that 'native labour' will ultimately be found one of the most important elements of its prosperity. In estimating the character and disposition of these people, they have, however, been judged too favourably as to what they are, but not so as to what they may become, by proper treatment. It is said, that they have renounced cannibalism and heathenism in favour of potatoes and Christianity, whereupon 'Exeter Hall' has declared them a regenerated and noble race. It is true that they are no longer cannibals, and true that they have made such advances in Christianity as to be already divided into Catholics, Episcopalians, and Dissenters. The abolition of cannibalism is a great step in civilization, and obedience to the 'forms' of religion may tend to humanise the savage; but it is a great error to suppose that, as a people, the New Zealanders are yet converts to Christianity, in aught save mere externals. The novelty has its charm, and they quickly see that, by professing conversion, they more readily obtain the countenance and support of missionaries, and other Europeans, which leads to trade, and the easier acquisition of what they covet. The New Zealander sees Christianity as clothed in blankets, stripped of which, and the novelty gone, it is to be feared that the neophyte would frequently relapse into darkness: it is well said, that *true* conversion must follow, or be subordinate to civilization; and the missionaries, who have done much good, would have done more had they always acted in the spirit of this truth. A Christian or 'missionary native,' as the term is, would not be deterred from injuring the European by any religious scruples arising from his so-called conversion; but during the attempt to convert him, he would acquire a taste for luxuries difficult to forego, a love of trade as the means of gratifying it, and possibly some slight knowledge of the simpler arts,

causing a desire for more—all dependent on the European; who thus, in former days, was perfectly safe when surrounded by savages able to execute anything they willed: and these influences continue so strong, that unless friendly natives were much excited by some provocation, they would be a complete safeguard against the attack of any hostile tribe.

"The future fate of the New Zealanders is a question fraught with interest. Will they, like other savage races, be swept away before the monopolizing progress and hostility of the white man; or will his humane policy for their welfare, aided by their own superior nature, ensure the preservation of the race? The New Zealander is naturally passionate and capricious, but not selfish; he has warm affections, is acute, eager to learn, and, for a savage, not averse from labour. These last two qualities, as capable of influencing his fate for good, are estimable, and, if properly encouraged, may save the race; but true it is, that the remarkable fitness of this people for civilization has been neutralized, in some measure, by the effects of their misgovernment. In our further efforts to promote their welfare, we should, I think, first establish our supremacy over those immediately connected with the various settlements, leaving the more distant tribes entirely to their own ways and means, to the insecurity and physical suffering incident to savage life. This accomplished, the first, ruled as children, kindly, but with firmness, being, as before remarked, desirous to learn and not averse from labour, would soon so improve their condition as to become objects of envy and admiration to the outside tribes, who, courting the power which had so advanced their fellows, would be anxious to attract European settlements among themselves. Thus, perhaps, their entire civilization might be peacefully effected; and their partial amalgamation, following as a consequence, would form an 'Anglo-New-Zealand' race, which, physically, at least, would vie with any in the world."

With these extracts, we leave the book to speak for itself, with readers who may contemplate emigrating to this island. All colonial matters, and the requisites for prosperous settling, are discussed and pointed out with apparent intelligence and impartiality; and everything needful to be learned with maps, sections, diagrams, tables, views, &c., seems to be fairly described in Mr. Hursthouse's uncooked "Account."

THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.

Healthy Homes, &c. &c. By W. Hosking, Architect and Civil Engineer. Murray.

WHEN the first edition of this work issued from the press, we bestowed upon it the warm praise which its great practical utility elicited. Mr. Hosking has now revised his work, and published it in a cheaper form, so as to come more within the means of the masses, and consequently of those most interested in the facts it lays down and the advice it gives. There is besides a Postscript, especially addressed to Surveyors and Commissioners of Sewers, to which alone we need, however, briefly advert. We believe that the ravages of cholera have been much increased by the measures adopted for cleansing sewers, drains, cesspools, &c. &c. Dean Swift observed that nothing was so nasty as a very nice person cleaning himself; and it is evident that nothing is so filthy as the disturbing of every receptacle of corruption in order to wash millions clean. Every poisonous substance and exhalation is being brought to the surface, and Mr. Hosking very relevantly observes:—

"It may be gravely questioned whether any attempt to check or prevent disease, by disturbing the deposits, will not, indeed, both engender and foster the plague. It were well if it were done, but the danger lies in the doing. Moreover, the removal of filth from the sewers and drains must be made to some place; and where is the place to which it can be removed,—even if the process of removal be left out of the question,—without carrying pestilence with it? If it be

loosened in the drains and sewers, and scoured with water into the Thames, the quantity is so great that the Thames itself will be poisoned, and the whole atmosphere of London will be injured therefrom to a greater degree, most probably, than it is injured by the undisturbed deposits; and if the filth be carted away, the question still remains—Whither? It is far from improbable that the exposure to the air of the filthy sweepings of the streets and of the contents of the middensteas of Sunderland in a huge, accumulated mass in one place, did more to induce cholera in that town in 1831 than all the other causes of disease together."

Mr. Faraday's plan for carrying the foul air of sewers, &c., where they exist, up flues by furnace chimneys, and discharging them at the height of eighty or a hundred feet to the action of the upper winds, does not seem to be recognised in the Report of the Sanitary Commissioners; but Mr. Hosking thinks well of it, and says:—

"The most eligible course for adoption under present circumstances seems to be—firstly, to apply the means indicated of drawing out of them, and discharging into the upper air, the air generated in the drains and sewers, that it may no longer require vent in the streets or at the outfalls: secondly, to sluice or scour the sewers with water to the largest possible extent, but not otherwise to disturb the deposits in them until the impending danger be past; and—simultaneously—to remove all surface soil and filth, and reduce the contents of all cesspools—though it must not be hoped to get rid of much of the soil from the cesspools by any existing sewers, nor is it indeed to be desired unless it can be certainly hurried on through the sewers, and in a diluted state, to an effective outfall."

Let us hope that in a multitude of counsels there may be wisdom. It is sadly required at this crisis, when neither engineers, surveyors, doctors, commissioners, guardians, churchwardens, vestries, inspectors, local boards, town councils, unions, paving boards, house-to-house visitors, nor committees, can agree upon any two points; and the laws, in spite of the last Public Health Act, are administered by so many conflicting authorities, as always to delay, and often to defeat, the most urgent measures to save thousands from disease and death. We have before us the "Report of the General Board of Health on the Measures adopted for the execution of the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, and the Public Health Act, up to July, 1849," and it is a document to cause no small degree of wonder at the condition of the lieges throughout the length and breadth of the land. The newspapers throughout the country have made known the leading matters in regard to flushings and drainings, and so forth; but what has astonished us more than all the rest is, the vision of local interests almost everywhere—interfering with the general good, and impeding every proposition for improvement. We have always been favourable to local or self-government, in contradistinction to centralization and political patronage; but it is impossible to look upon any number of fellow-creatures perishing, without utter disgust, when we see that the cause is a parish or personal job, which has been perpetrated or is desired in any alterations to be made.

At Tooting, the remonstrances of the Commissioners (so fully informed by wide experience and the advice of the ablest practitioners) were set at nought, and "two of the Boards of Guardians persisted in refusing to remove the children from this poisoned atmosphere; the daily deaths, which ranged for several days together from fourteen to twenty, produced upon them no practical impression; invaluable time was lost, and when at length the great mortality (no less than 180 perished) induced them to follow the counsel they had so long neglected, it was too late; the poison had embued the system of the children, and on their removal to the several workhouses (for a large number of them were removed to workhouses, notwithstanding our recommendation that they should not be so), considerably more than 300 became affected either with the choleric diarrhoea, or with cholera itself."

"Here was a case where Guardians in a state of ignorance as to the course which the occasion required, refused to be guided by the larger experience which they had no means of acquiring of themselves; and who occasioned by their mismanagement and delay a great loss of life."

At Liverpool, the course pursued by the Guardians of the Parish, Select Vestry, and Medical Relief Committee, was as bad or worse, and nearly as fatal; and during their "discussions and delays, cholera had increased from sixteen in the week ending the 19th of May, to twenty-seven on the following week; sixty-seven on the next week; 145 on the week following, and 187 on the week ending the 16th of June. *

"The body which thus deliberately violated the law, had neglected the discharge of their duties for at least a period of two months, in spite of repeated warnings by the Officers of Health of their own borough, and the earnest remonstrances of a Committee consisting partly of their own members, and that at a time when between thirty and forty fresh attacks of cholera were occurring in their city daily; a neglect of duty which is described as inflicting much suffering and sacrifice of life.

"We submit that the protection of the poor and helpless from preventable sickness, suffering, and premature disablement, and death, is a duty of the highest importance, and that negligence or omission in relation to it is a grave offence. The examples we have now recited show that if measures for the prevention of these evils are placed on the footing of mere recommendations no attention will be paid to them. Such evils can be abated only by the exercise of powers adequate to enforce the measures which are required for their suppression. When it is intended that the operations of a law shall be efficient, the power of prosecuting for disobedience, as well as of laying down executive regulations, are placed not in separate but the same hands; and the experience of the working of this Act shows that its provisions cannot be carried out, and consequently that the intentions of the Legislature cannot be realized, unless a power be given to the General Board of Health, similar to that given to other Boards, such as the Lunacy Commission, to originate prosecutions for the neglect or violation of its regulations.

"The powers conferred for the prevention of epidemic diseases must, to accomplish their object, necessarily be summary; but if the orders made by one department can be enforced only by application to another department, delay must be incurred where promptitude is essential."

Here are some farther lights which show how the health of the country is trifled with:—

"The chief opposition commonly experienced has been from the owners of the worst-conditioned tenements, often from those where the highest rents were obtained, and most frequently from those where the payment of rates was nevertheless excused."

If the immediate outlay of five shillings would save them the expense of fifteen shillings a year, they would to a man reject it. And higher up in the scale—

"The corporations and the local commissions are usually in debt, and frequently unable to account satisfactorily for the past expenditure. The contrast between the estimates made by the inspectors, upon the improvement in economy, and efficiency of construction, which have followed the investigations under the Metropolitan Sanitary Commission, are so great, when compared with those to which the local authorities have been accustomed, that they have frequently incredulously asserted, that such works cannot be carried out for any such sums as those named in the reports. *

"The entire want of faith in the improvement of the future local expenditure has been one source of the opposition from the owners of the tenements chiefly requiring amendment, for which the highest rents in proportion to any outlay are commonly received. We must, however, repeat, that inasmuch as we believe in every instance the works of amendment proposed will be in reduction of existing charges, and

be an improvement to the property; the abolition of cesspools, complete house drainage and cleansing would, by the reduction of damp, be of full money value to the property by the saving of dilapidations; so we have held that every description of property must contribute; but the owners of the description of property which is supposed to be the poorest, namely, that excused from the payment of all rates on the ground of the poverty of the occupiers, have seen in the imposition of rates for these improvements only a precedent for the rating of that description of property for other purposes, and have been most violent in their opposition. Under the influence of these classes of opponents, poor occupiers, who have expressed their satisfaction at the prospect of amendment, and petitioned for the application of the Public Health Act, have been frequently induced to retract their declarations, and, in some instances, to petition against measures, which, however, were nevertheless measures of pecuniary as well as of sanitary relief."

One consolation is, that the present national stir and exposure of the past must conduce to a better future system. The Commissioners are astounded "by the claims of compensation, for worthless works and for interests, which ought never to have been allowed to be created. Out of fifty towns examined by the Commissioners of Inquiry into the means of improving the Health of Towns, they state in respect to works and expenditure for supplies of water, that in only six instances could the arrangements and the supplies be pronounced in any comprehensive sense good (and, consequently, the original expenditure efficient), whilst in thirteen they appear to be indifferent, and in thirty-two so deficient as to be pronounced bad. Yet, for such works heavy compensations are generally claimed. The former expenditure on local works of town drainage, has been found to be, for the greater part, expenditure in worse than waste, in the creation of expended cesspools. Yet, for this past waste, and for the waste which we have reason to apprehend it will be shown has been renewed even under recent Improvement Acts, there is no real responsibility. We have met with no examples, nor have we heard of any, of pecuniary responsibility, or a really effectual responsibility, on the part of the numerous and fluctuating bodies of honorary members, that for the most part have had the management and control of such works as those in question.

"If past local works of this description are objectionable on the ground of extravagance, when the expense is defrayed by immediate lessors or by lessors for short periods, what may not be expected from annual fluctuating and irresponsible bodies, if they were allowed free opportunities of shifting burthens from themselves upon absenteers?"

"In several places the Inspectors have received objections as to the proposed composition of the Local Boards, and the necessity of alterations or additions. The common hypothesis of the constitution of the Local Boards and local representative bodies, is that they consist of persons having only common and general public interests; whereas the practical difficulty is to find persons having only such interests, and to secure their attendance and attention for carrying out such general public interests. Practically the closest attention is given by persons with particular, and too frequently adverse, interests. Practically, it is found, sometimes, that the Boards, or the majority of them, are comprised of occupiers into whose hands may fall the uncontrolled direction of works which affect their own charges, and of works which affect the properties and opposing interests of owners. In many instances, however, it is found that, in the Local Boards, the interests of the owners of the lowest class of houses, which, as we have seen, most require interference, frequently predominate, and willing co-operation may not be expected through them. In several instances, individuals of predominant local influence, interested in manufactures or processes which are nuisances that affect injuriously the health of the population, have declared that if the Public Health Act were applied, it should be a dead letter. In some instances the

smaller owners have announced their intention to get themselves elected to frustrate the operation of the Act. Where the owners of a higher class of property prevail at such a Board, the measures adopted for the enforcement of regulations such as the ejection of the occupiers of cellar dwellings must wear the aspect of the exercise of power by persons of rival interests. Where the new works required are really improvements—as those contemplated must be, often immediately and visibly, and always eventually, if properly managed, improvements of the property—the owners of one class may be expected not to be zealous in carrying out improvements of rival properties.

"Considering the provisions made for the satisfaction of the rate-payers with the application of the Act, we should hesitate to recommend the enforcement of its provisions against the general and deliberate wishes of the inhabitants of any town, when the intended measures were placed fully and fairly before them. But in the face of proved facts of preventable evils under which the great bulk of the population of a town may be suffering, we should be cautious in accepting as the real expression of opinion, declarations against remedies, unless under scrutinies and precautions, such as experience has suggested in relation to the guises assumed by such interests as those above indicated. We should not accept as expressions of the aversion of 'the people' or of the unwillingness of the town, declarations which we know to be got up on ignorant or false representations by the owners of the worst conditioned tenements, in respect to which it may be requisite to adopt compulsory measures, or by local functionaries whose powers it may be necessary to supersede; or by one local party in the mere spirit of opposition against the measure which may happen to have been initiated by persons belonging to another, or to no local party whatsoever.

"Unless provision be made for the free and fair action of the more wide and general interests, the causes of disturbed action, which are above indicated, must have their effect."

And here we stop, hopefully, for we deem it impossible that such obstacles can be permitted to stand in the way of a nation's health and happiness. No, out of the nettle cholera, we will pluck the rose safety; and turn the pestilence that now scourges us into a fountain of blessings for generations to come.

Much does the country owe to the parliamentary exertions of Mr. Mackinnon, and now that the Plague has seconded his motion, we may rely on its being carried, especially as the mortality in and around the *Times* Office has enlisted that potent organ so zealously on the same side. It is many years ago since the *Literary Gazette* took up the same cause, and its record of a meeting at the Golden Cross, Charing Cross, may be referred to in proof of this "early movement."

COOKERY.

The Modern Housewife; or Ménagère. By Alexis Soyer. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

ONE cannot reconcile the ideas of distress or suffering with a volume from M. Soyer. We forget plagues and famines. "Live well, fear not," is his laudable motto; and to live well, though differently understood, is the advice of the gastronome, the cook, the lawgiver, and the divine. Lovage and pale brandy are anti-cholera protection till medical aid can be had; but there is little fear of the distemper if you eat such viands as Soyer (the greatest doctor of all) prescribes for your daily diet. Less than usual of vegetables, fruit, and fish, not total abstinence, is the Master's own course. A good dish of boiled rice vice potatoes, curries—which, if we understand aright, he hints have some electrical properties—boiled water cooled for drinking (a most essential and salutary precaution which every one should adopt), mutton in every way, and—but we do not know what to say about "The Modern Housewife," whose engraved portrait accompanies these safe and savoury directions. She looks as plump as a partridge, and is surrounded by a game

border, out of which there are fruits of the most fruitful abundance. Are these things emblematical, as there are fish also, erroneous flounders and slippery eels, mackerel suggestive of shot silk dresses, cod and whiting, maid and gudgeons, and it would not be easy to comprehend the whole piscatory allegory, as the Persians read the language of flowers. But to return to the pretty-looking housewife introduced to us by M. Soyer, we beg to commend her to the favour she seeks, i.e. that she may prove "A Useful Adviser." Sure we are that these large eyes, round cheeks, dimpled chin, swelling bosom, compact waist, fashionable bustle, gracefully held pen, and prophetic bill of fare, must be the incarnation and outward and visible signs of an admirable provider. There can be no mistake about it. Even Soyer may depart in peace, leaving such a substitute behind.

With regard to the book, for economy and comfort, neatness without extravagance, and a thousand lessons for compounding pleasant and palatable dishes, the fair *Ménagère* is to be glorified. Breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, deserts, suppers—varied, tempting, good, all excellent, and truly we may state that a more instructive family cookery book could not be desired. It has also recipes for the sick-room, and many bits of miscellaneous utility for domestic duties.

But while we yield the bays to modern cookery, it may become us as Archaeologists, to cast a retrospect upon the *cuisine* of our forefathers and mothers, five hundred years ago. Our excellent and curious friend Mr. Charles Clarke, at his amateur press at Tatham, has printed, verbatim, a limited number of copies, in black letter, of sixty *nyms* or receipts, from a manuscript compiled about 1390, by the master cooks of King Richard II., entitled, "The Forme of Cury," of which the following are examples, with Mr. Clarke's annotations.

"For to make drawen benes."—Take benes and seeth hem, and grynd hem in a morter, and drawe* hem up with gode brothe, and do oynouns (onions) in the broth, grete myned,+ and do (put) thereto, and color it with safron,‡ and serve it forth.

"For to make grawel forced."—Take grawel, and do (put it) to the fyre with gode flessh, and seeth it well. Take the lyre (flesh) of pork, and grynd it smal,|| and drawe the grawel thurgh a stryner, and color it with safron, and serve forth.

"Rapes (turnips) in potage."—Take rapus and make hem clene, and waissh hem clene. Quare hem, ¶ parboile hem; take hem up, cast hem in a gode broth, and seeth hem. Mynce oynouns, and cast thereto safron and salte, and messe (dish) it forth with powder douce. In the wise (same manner) make of pasturaknes (parsnips) and skyrwates (skirrets).

"Eowtes of flessh (qy.)"—Take borage, cool (colewort), lang-debef, ** persel (parsley), betes (beet-root), orage (orach), anuance (avens), violet, sawray (savory), and fenkell (fennel), and when they bith (are) soden, presse hem wel smale, cast hem in gode broth, and seeth hem, and serve hem forth.

"Hebolace ++"—Take oynouns and erbes, and hewe hem small, and do thereto gode broth, and array (dress) it as thou didest caboebe; if they be in fysch day, make (dress them) on the same manner with water and oyl; and if it be not in Lent, alye (mix) it with zolken of eyren (eggs), and dresse it forth, and cast thereto powdor-dowce.

"Gourdes (gourds) in potage."—Take young gowrdies, pare hem, and kerfe hem on pecys (cut them in pieces). Cast hem in gode broth, and do

* "Drawe hem up." Mix them.

† "Grete myned." Not too finely minced.

‡ "The drug saffron is repeatedly used in the following receipts for the purpose of colouring the messes. At the period of this compilation, it had been imported into England but a short time. Weever's Fun. Mon. p. 624. The word is probably derived from the Arabic *zapharan*, the drug itself being a native of the East.

§ "Grawel forced." Enriched with flesh.

|| "Grynd it smal, bruise it in a mortar.

¶ "Quare hem." Cut them in *squares*, or small pieces.

** "Lang-debef." Bugloss, buglossum sylvestre. These names all arise from a similitude to an ox's tongue.—Pegge.

†† "Hebolace." Probably from the *herbs* made use of in the process.

thereto a good partie (quantity) of oynonns myned. Tak pork soden; grynd (bray) it, and alye (mix) it therewith, and with zolkes of nyren (eggs). Do thereto safron and salt, and messe it forth with powdor-douce.

"*Ryse (rice) of flesh.*"—Take ryse and waishe hem cleane, and do hem in (into) erthen pot with gode broth, and lat hem seeth wel. Afterward, take almand mylke,* and do thereto, and color it with safron, and messe forth.

"*Funges (mushrooms).*"—Take funges, and pare hem cleane, and dye hem;‡ take leke, and shred hym small, and do hym to seeth in gode broth; color it with safron, and do therineen powder-fort.‡

"*Bursen (pig).*"—Take the whyte of lekes, slype hem, and shred hem small. Take noumble§ of swyne, and parboile hem in broth and wyne. Take hym up, and dresse hym, and do the leke in the broth. Seeth and do the noumble thereto; make a lyor (mixture) of brode (bread), blode, and vynegre, and do thereto powder-fort; seeth oynonns, mynce hem, and do thereto. The self wise make of pigges (in the same manner dress pigs).

"*Corat (pig).*"—Take the noumble of calf, swyne, or of shepe; parboile hem, and kerne (cut) hem to dye; cast hem in gode broth, and do thereto herbes. Grynde chyballys (young onions) small y hewe. Seeth it tendre, and lye (mix) it with zolkes of eyrenn (eggs). Do thereto verjous, safron, powder douce, and salt, and serve it forth."

What think ye, our Soyer and *Ménagère*, of these ten dishes?

SUMMARY.

Treatise on Harmony for the Pianist, with examples of Studies, Figures, and Preludes. By Fred. Kalkbrenner. Translated by R. L. Cocks. Cocks and Co.

The reputation of the Kalkbrenners is well known, and this work is calculated to do all students of the pianoforte lasting benefit. It has been often repeated, but seemingly without producing any effect, that young lady players of the present day know nothing of the grammar of music. Owing to this, the bass of compositions is often entirely neglected, or at any rate regarded as a secondary matter, whereas it is in reality the very foundation and power of the whole piece.

Kalkbrenner has "taken the bull by the horns." In this work he has clearly explained all the necessary rules for composition, and illustrated these from the first, by examples of a practical nature, which would enable any person of the ordinary ability of players, to master and be able to apply in a few weeks the principles and practice of extemporizing preludes, &c., writing and playing from a given melody, accompaniments and variations, as well as to read music readily at sight.

We would strongly recommend this treatise to all teachers of the pianoforte, as so much better adapted than other more scientific theoretical works, to develop the taste, and bring forward pupils, without the tedious labour of months' dry study before they are able to note down musical ideas correctly.

Dr. Muspratt's Plattner on the Blowpipe. Taylor, Walton, and Maberly.

PROFESSOR PLATTNER writes,—"Dr. Sheridan Muspratt has published in English *my Probirkunst mit dem Löthrone*, and really with such circumspection and profound knowledge of the subject, that I deem it my bounden duty to tender him my heartfelt acknowledgments." Professor Liebig too has testified to the fidelity and ability with which the translation

* "Almand mylke." This consisted of almonds ground, and mixed with milk, broth, or water.

† "Dyce hem." Cut them into little square pieces, like dice.

‡ "Powdor-fort." A mixture of the warmer spices, pepper, ginger, &c.

§ "Noumble." The entrails of any beast, but confined, at present, to those of the deer. Mr. Pegge suspects a *crasis* in the case, *quasi unum*, singular for what is plural now, from Latin *Umbilicus*. Vide Pegge's *Glossary in Forme of Cury*.

has been executed, and the English edition "enhanced by Dr. Muspratt's annotations." We have, therefore, much pleasure in drawing attention to this second edition, including notices of new marvels and recent improvements. The value of Plattner's treatise on the use and application of the blowpipe requires not to be raised by any praise of ours, since the original work has been eulogised by such chemists as Liebig, Berzelius, Rose, and Kane. Dr. Muspratt's great chemical success in the direction of an important medical establishment at Liverpool, may be considered a consequence of his intimate knowledge of these subjects.

Collectanea Antiqua. Vol. II. Part I. By C. Roach Smith, F.S.A. Smith.

This part is replete with Roman antiquarian interest, as it contains a "full and particular account," illustrated with engravings, of the villa discovered and largely explored by Mr. Bland at Hartlip, in Kent. *Dane's Field* (for so are the sites of ancient remains confounded by Time) lies between Rainham and Sittingbourne, and it must have been the locale of a considerable Roman colony. The foundations, the walls, fragments of the arts, coins, &c. &c., are all minutely described by Mr. Smith; and when we have mentioned his name, we have announced the conduct and results of the "digging" to have been in the hands of one of the ablest, most cautious, and most experienced living authorities upon investigations of this kind.

Crayford; or, the Force of Influence. 2 vols. Newby.

REMINDS us of the elder style of novel writing, when the Leadenhall-street press fulfilled the desires of readers. There are the same delineations of characters, the same working out of common incidents of life, only stiffened by authorship, and the same crowding of matters of slight consequence, tending to the proposed end of the author. Then there are letters to repeat and enforce all that has happened before, so that, take Crayford for all in all, it will serve to afford a treat to those who can feel interested in the sayings and doings of such personages and the consequences thereof.

Addresses on Miscellaneous Subjects. By the Rev. J. S. M. Anderson, M.A. London: Rivingtons. Brighton: Folthorpe.

On the profitable employment of hours gained from business, Dr. Johnson, Columbus, Sir Walter Raleigh, and England and her Colonies, are the themes of the reverend gentleman's discussion. They were originally delivered as lectures, and display much good sense and good feeling, though we cannot say that we agree with all the writer's opinions. A considerable degree of miscellaneous reading is manifested, and the ideas adopted from many standard authors. The whole may be pronounced morally and generally instructive, and sometimes eloquent; so that the volume is truly adapted for youthful reading, and for the cultivation of the minds of such mixed audiences as the lecturer addressed.

Rutherford's Border Handbook. Kelso: Rutherford.

THOUGH the Scottish Highlands have very strong attractions, the Scottish borders present a great number of remarkable places and interesting objects, together with scenery varying from the wild to the most lovely pastoral beauty, and sacred to hundreds of songs of exquisite power, nature, and pathos, which have hardly any, if any, inferior claims upon the attention of tourists. The birth-places of Dun Scotus, Thomson, Burns, and Scott, of Hogg, Leyden, and Brewster, besides many lesser luminaries, afford sensible emotions even to unimaginative minds; and souls of the least spirit must be touched by the view of such fields as Flodden, such castles as Roxburgh, famous for its sieges, and such remains of national and feudal architecture as belong to stirring history, and a condition of people mingling fierceness and romance to an extraordinary degree, scarcely conceivable to settled and lawful times. We would also revert to the amber sweetness of song, in which the localities embraced by the volume are embalmed along the Tweed and Teviotdale. The wail of Flodden, "when

the flowers of the forest were a' weeded away;" the bold, rough, border chant of the sutors (shoemakers) of Selkirk; the touching home feeling of the Broom of Cowdenknows; the lively amativeness of Gala Water, or Ettrick Banks; and the ancient royal lay of Pebbie at the Play, are spots replete with most interesting associations; whilst the minstrelsy and novels of the great wizard or the North have even in our day extended the reign of poetry and literature over a multitude of other fastnesses, abbeys, streams, lochs, and landscapes.

Such are among the temptations presented by Mr. Rutherford's Handbook, and we think no traveller would be disappointed in the realities. The volume is also nicely embellished, and we could only have wished that the publisher had looked more near himself for an original design or two. Kelso produced a very charming landscape painter in William Wilson, some of whose beautiful views of the neighbourhood were engraved. A townsman should not have forgotten this; but prophets, says the proverb, are seldom esteemed in their own country! The more the pity. And *apropos*: is the Duke of Roxburgh's magnificent and beautifully situated palace *Floors* as spelled in this guide, or *Fleurs* from the French? We incline to the latter.

Religions Ignorance: its Cause and Cure. By A. Q. G. Craufurd, M.A., of Jesus College, Cambridge, formerly Curate of St. Mark's Church, Woodhouse, Leeds. Chapman.

SOME depart from the Church of England for Rome, some for various sects of dissent, and we now hear that a section of the Evangelical party is about to separate from the establishment, as the Free Church of Scotland did from the "kirk;" but the late curate of St. Mark's goes beyond them all, and appears to abjure Christianity altogether. He says the New Testament is full of impositions and "lies," has answered its turn, and ought to be dismissed, that our present system of religion is "idolatrous," and that the age of reason (Tom Payne's) ought to furnish the only creed. There is no beating about the bush with him: he is a broad and bold infidel.

The History of France, related to Youth. From the French of M. Lame Fleury. By C. Fleming. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.; Roland. Paris: Borrani and Droz.

THIS volume contains two volumes bound into one, and appears to us to be executed on a method exceedingly applicable to ready and efficient educational purposes. To every period or chapter is appended a notice of contemporary customs and arts, and also a synchronism of events external to the history of France. An analytical table of contents is another useful feature; and altogether we can take upon ourselves to pronounce this (one of a series, we believe) to be a very satisfactory production for the teaching of history.

Elements of English Grammar, for the Use of Ladies' Schools. By R. G. Latham, M.D. Taylor, Walton, and Maberly.

FOR a publication of its class and pretensions, we have met with nothing in the course of our reading superior to this. It is Elemental, and yet goes far beyond Elements. In short, it contains within a hundred pages more information for learners than many of the learned know. As for ladies' schools having the sole benefit of it, we protest against that, unless the boys' schools are to be kept in comparative ignorance, and even their ma's and pa's at vacation time be taught to eat humble pie! We most heartily recommend it.

The Revolution in the Mind and Practice of the Human Race. By Robert Owen. Wilson.

In this volume the enthusiastic writer restates and reinforces his peculiar views, and holds out the immediate hope that the world is about to change its irrational for a rational course. The belief whether the vision of Elysium will be fulfilled or not, must rest on Mr. Owen's statements, arguments, and plans for the reorganization of society, and their effect upon the minds of his readers. For ourselves, we can only say that we are very doubtful of living to see so entire a happiness on earth.

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

Mackie's Castles, Palaces, and Prisons of Mary of Scotland.

(Second Notice—Conclusion.)

It was from Jedburgh that Mary made her extraordinary excursion to the Hermitage:—

"On the 10th of October the Queen arrived at Jedburgh having on her way thither received the disagreeable news that Bothwell, her lieutenant, had been insulted by some unruly borderers, that he had been dangerously wounded, and had retired to the castle of Hermitage, about eighteen miles distant from Jedburgh. Some say Morton had brought over the tribe of the Ellots to revenge his present disgrace upon one whom he considered an enemy. Others with greater probability state that it was only a riot occasioned by the moss-troopers, whom he desired to punish and suppress.

"Mary, being engaged with public business at Jedburgh, was for several days prevented from ascertaining the truth of the report, which had probably reached her in an exaggerated form. On the 16th of October, however, the queen found leisure to ride across the country with some attendants to inquire for Bothwell, and also to ascertain the nature of the disturbance. On this occasion she is stated to have remained only an hour or two, and returned to Jedburgh the same evening.

"While at Jedburgh her Majesty resided in a house still standing, and situated in a back lane. It is of three storeys, thatched on the roof. The whole of the ground-floor is vaulted, the arches of which appear in the outer walls. There is a heraldic escutcheon above the entrance, with the arms of the Scots of Harden, now Buccleuch.

"Ascending by a turret-stair behind the house, the stranger is introduced into Queen Mary's room, which is on the third floor, and which has a small window looking into the garden. Formerly it was hung with tapestry, which has been transferred to the garret above."

If we are not mistaken, the Buccleuch is not the representative of the Scot of Harden, but Lord Polwarth. But to return to Hermitage:—

"From the many crimes committed in this castle, an idea prevails in the country, that this venerable ruin, oppressed as it were by a consciousness of the scenes of guilt transacted within its walls, is gradually sinking into the earth: thirty feet of its original height having already gone down, while thirty have fallen from the top, and only thirty now remain above the level of the ground.

"This huge building is about 100 feet square; the walls are tolerably entire, but the interior is completely ruined. The plan is of a singular kind; the east and west fronts of the square being flat, without any projection, whereas the northern and southern sides present a curtain flanked by a huge square tower at each end. The main entrance seems to have been from the west, by a very high portal arch, which ascends to the projecting battlements on the top of the castle wall; but the archway enters only a little way at this extraordinary height, being blockaded by an inner wall, through which an entrance of moderate dimensions leads into the court of the castle. Above the interior portal are holes for pouring down arrows and other offensive weapons upon any enemy who might attempt to take the place by storm. There is every appearance of the present castle having been founded upon the ruins of one built with more cost and attention; for irregular portions of the wall, towards the foundation, are in a style of masonry much superior to what has been erected above them.

"The situation of the fortress is exceedingly strong, it being defended on the southern side by the river, and on the three other sides by a deep and level morass, above which the site of the castle is considerably elevated. It is only accessible on the east by a narrow causeway; and on the west by the bank of the river.

"At a little distance higher up the stream is a deserted burial-ground, which imparts a deeper shade of melancholy to the aspect and circumstances of the

ruins. It is a small enclosure, containing a number of ancient graves: the vestiges of a small chapel are still to be traced in the centre, with an old crooked tree, growing from the spot where tradition asserts that the altar once stood. Here it is said once existed a hermitage, which gave the name of Hermitage to the stream, as the stream has done to the castle. Hermitage Castle has been supposed to contain great store of concealed treasure; but the superstitious fears of the country-people prove an insuperable obstacle both to their curiosity and cupidity. Such is the dread in which this dilapidated ruin is held, that the peasantry can scarcely be persuaded to approach it unless in broad day; and when their nocturnal avocations would lead them by the haunted tower, they never hesitate to adopt a circuitous route, in order to avoid this fearful path."

Crookston, in the county of Peebles, is one of the most interesting retreats of Mary mentioned in these pages.

"The connexion of this once noble structure with the history of Mary of Scotland, invests the ruins with an interest that will never cease to be felt while the record of her life and misfortunes remains on the page of history.

"It was to this baronial mansion, surrounded by the richest and most varied scenery, that Mary was conducted soon after the celebration of her marriage with Darnley, the son of the noble proprietor. Here for a while she enjoyed, in the sweetness of retirement, the society of her beloved lord. The site of the yew-tree is still pointed out, in what had once been a garden, under whose ill-omened branches Mary is said to have sat with Darnley, enjoying that reciprocal felicity which was soon to be embittered by the blackest malignity, and the virulence of political and religious rancour.

"There was an ancient ballad in allusion to this royal visit, of which the following lines only have been preserved—

"When Harry met Mary under this yew tree,
What Harry said to Mary, I'll not tell thee."

"The impress of the tree of Crookston is on the reverse of the large pieces of an ounce weight coined by Queen Mary after her marriage with Henry Darnley: on the first of which is the shield of Scotland crowned and supported by two thistles, inscribed, 'Maria et Henricus, Dei Gratia R. et R.' on the reverse, a yew-tree, crowned, with the motto on a schedule hung to it, 'Dat Gloria vires, 1565,' and circumscribed 'Exurgit Deus, dissipentur inimici eius,' wherein the tree being bound, denotes the advancement of the Lennox family by Darnley's marriage with the queen, and the 'lema' of 'Dat Gloria vires' is observed very much to comport with that device.

"Among the other amusements of Mary was the composition of devices, to excel in which required some wit and judgment, and several of the emblematic devices invented by her exhibit much elegance and sensibility. On the death of her first husband, Francis, she took for her device a little branch of the liquorice-tree, whose root alone is sweet, all the rest of the plant being bitter, and the motto was, 'Dulce numen terra legit.' On her cloth of state was embroidered, 'En ma fin est mon commencement.' She had also a medal struck on which was represented a vessel in a storm, with its masts broken and falling, with the motto 'Nunquam nisi reclam,' intimating a determination rather to perish than deviate from the path of integrity. During her imprisonment in England she embroidered for the Duke of Norfolk a hand with a sword in it cutting vines, with the motto 'Virescit vulnera virtus.'

"The sylvan monument, which was long distinguished by the appellation of the Crookston Yew, was of such gigantic dimensions that it was visible from many miles distant. The trunk measured ten feet in circumference, at the height of seven feet from the ground; but its growth upon the top was unfortunately retarded, in 1780, when it was pruned. The tree after this gradually decayed, and ceased to bud on the last day of the last century, when the house

of Stewart was verging fast to its fall! The country people commenced cutting down this relic and carrying large portions away, more, perhaps, from curiosity than cupidity, and Sir John Maxwell found it necessary to remove the trunk from their lawless attacks. Many pieces of the tree have been presented to the friends of the noble proprietor, and not a few have been manufactured into valuable articles."

The battle of Langside "was fought on the summit of an elliptical intrenchment, commonly called Queen Mary's camp, but which is undoubtedly of much higher antiquity, and probably of Roman origin. On a hill opposite to Langside, and near the old castle of Cathcart, the Queen took her stand during the battle, the agitated witness of the defeat of her friends and the annihilation of her dearest hopes. Mary had much difficulty to make good her flight, having been intercepted by two rustics, who threatened to cut her in pieces with their scythes; but she was happily rescued, and, with Lord Herries and two or three followers, made good her escape to the abbey of Dun-drennan. A Hawthorn long marked the place where Mary stood during the battle, till it decayed with age. Another was reverentially planted on the same spot. It is with excellent taste now enclosed by the Earl of Cathcart, and a stone is erected with the imperial crown and the initials beside the thorn, in solemn memory of a scene which closed on Mary's last effort to regain her crown. Amongst the family pictures of the loyal and patriotic family of Maxwell there is a very valuable portrait of Queen Mary, painted on copper, which bears every mark of originality. The initials on the top of the frame, and the frame itself, are quite in character of the sixteenth century. We were also shown a vase, once the property of the ill-fated queen.

"While on the subject of pictures, we cannot omit naming two paintings of Queen Mary which we had the pleasure of inspecting when visiting Glasgow.

"In Cathcart House, which is about three miles distant from Crookston, there is a beautiful circular portrait of Queen Mary, with the crown on her head. The face resembles very much the portrait from which our engraving is taken. We had the honour to receive the following history of this picture from the hands of the Countess Cathcart:—

"The picture was painted before her execution at Fotheringhay. There were two painted, and given by the queen to two Scotch ladies. They went abroad after her death, and died at Antwerp, leaving directions to have the pictures placed over their tombs in St. Andrew's Church, at Antwerp. When we were there we saw the tombs. One picture still hangs there, exactly the same as ours, but not in such good preservation. There is the stain in the wall where this one had been; and the person who showed us the church was delighted to hear where it was, as tradition mentioned it, but there was no clue as to when it was taken away. It has always been supposed by the family, that it was brought to Scotland by Charles the eighth Lord Cathcart, who was educated at Leyden, and served in the Marlborough wars."

"Another remarkable portrait of Mary, by Zucchero, which was brought from Bruges, and which bears a resemblance to other pictures by that artist, was shown to us by Baillie M'Lellan of Glasgow. Mary is represented in a widow's habit of black velvet, which hangs gracefully over her tall slender frame, and is gathered together at the waist by a rich golden sash studded with ornaments. In the front of the zone or sash is a miniature of her father, James V., holding in his hands the sceptre and ball, and above his head is the notable bonnet introduced on all his coins. On the right, at a little distance, is the crest of Scotland; and on the left, nearest the heart, is the portrait of her husband, Francis I. The girdle is tied on the left side, and reaches to the knees, having appended to it a golden case, containing a knife and fork."

We do not know of the authenticity of these likenesses, but two of the most finished portraits of Mary belong to Dr. Copland, to whom they have descended from an ancestress—one of "the Four Maries," who attended the Queen to France. We

believe them to be genuine as they are beautiful. They were painted in Paris by a French artist.

We take our leave of Mr. Mackie's work, again warmly recommending it as a pleasant autumnal volume, into which many interesting things have been collected.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HORÆ CELTICÆ.—NO. IX.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

SIR.—The number of silent letters which sometimes are found in Irish words, make them appear very different from what they really are when pronounced. Thus, the name of the mountains of Mourne, in Ulster, appears in Irish books written *Μούρνα*,—i.e., Moghdmorn, where the two medial consonants being aspirated, lose their sound. I have mentioned this fact to obviate the objections which a person not familiar with the usage of the silent letters might make to the derivations proposed in a late number for *Cain* and *Chaos*,—namely, *Cain*, from *ceās-ȝēm*, the first-born, and *Chaos*, or, in Greek, *χαος*, from *ceās-ȝor*, the first element. In both those instances, the two medial consonants are also silent, and I may mention that both words are to be found extant in their compound state, and are not combinations made by me to suit an etymology. The name of *Abel*, the brother of *Cain*, seems also purely Celtic, and appears to denote a fact connected with his history, inasmuch as he was the first of Adam's race who died. This name is written in Hebrew as if it were *Hebel*, not *Abel*. Now, if we recollect how like the letters *He* and *Cheth* are, we will not be surprised if one should have been substituted for the other, and if the original name were *Chebel*—and in this form it seems derivable from *ceās-abal*, the first dead—a much more appropriate designation for him than *Vanity*, the sense usually given to his name. Of course, this name was only given after his death, and in memorial of him; and in many instances in scripture, the names by which persons are made known to us could not have been given to them in childhood or early life, for they denote circumstances which occur in their later days.

The name of *Aaron*, brother of *Moses*, appears to me to have been different from that by which he is mentioned in holy writ; for *Aaron* seems to denote merely his office as high priest. The word for priest in Hebrew is *cohen*, as it is generally pointed; but according to the Chaldee usage, it is pointed as if *cahen*. This word denotes a prince or lord as well as priest, and we find that the Celtic languages have preserved it in this latter sense; for example, in Welsh *cwn* signifies a lord, as does *cōbñac* in Irish. Now, the original word appears to have been *cōtñ* or *cubñ*, a diminutive of a word which we find common to Sanscrit, Arabic, and Irish, and which denoted first a head, then a chief, or leader, just as the Persian *khān* and Saxon *king* may be traced to the Celtic *ceān*, a head. In Sanscrit we find *cuda*, a head, and in Irish we find *cub*, signifying the same thing; and the diminutive of this would make the Welsh form *cun*, a lesser king, a lord. Now, if to the word signifying priest we prefix the common Irish prefix *an*, high, we obtain the compound *an-ȝōtñ*, the high priest; in this compound the last letter of the first word and the initial letter of the second are both silent, and the whole word when pronounced would not differ greatly from *Aaron*. It is worthy of note that we have a compound still extant, which denotes a high dignitary in the hierarchy, and which appears to have been taken from the Chaldean form of the word for priest; thus *an-ȝēanñac*, a corruption of *an-ȝēcañac*, signifies any ecclesiastical chief or dignitary. In this compound the first element is the word *an*, high, and the second is *ceānac*, power, superiority, a word derived from *ceān*, a head, just as *cōbñac*, a lord, is derived from *cōb* or *cub*, a head. In Persian, *ѧ-քհա*, khoda, signifies God, and from this word denoting God we can understand how the sense of *priest* came to be assigned to the derivative, for *khoda* and *cub* are radically the same.

The word *Moses* is not a Hebrew word. This form is derived to us from the Greek. The Hebrew name for the great lawgiver of the Jews is *משה*, which, without points, is *Mshh*, and may be read very differently according to the vowels supplied. We generally read it as if *Mosheh*, and interpret it to mean drawn out, that is, drawn out of the water; the word, however, may be read *Mesah*, or *Masah*, and it is, I conceive, a compound, the first term being the Celtic *meār*, a foster child; and the second *ȝ*, denoting fortune, prosperity, or good luck: and the whole compound expressing “the fortunate foster child”—or, as we would more familiarly say, “the lucky foster child.” Not an inappropriate title, in the mind of his compeers, for the foster-child of Pharaoh's daughter.

As *Moses*' name has suggested the idea of Egypt and all that concerns it, I may here suggest a derivation for the word crocodile, different from either of those lately proposed by others in your pages; indeed it seems a very obvious one, and if true, should make Celtic more regarded as likely to assist in throwing light on all that concerns ancient Egypt. The most remarkable thing connected with the crocodile is the hardness of its skin, which is said to be almost impenetrable to a musket ball. Now this characteristic is alluded to in the Celtic components of its name, the compound *cn̄uas-caðal* literally signifying hard-skin. The name *Canopus*, I before proposed to derive from *ceān-obs*, the mouth of the river; and the poet *Æschylus* confirms the derivation, for he calls the city *Kavos*, and speaking of it in the *Prometheus Vinctus*, (853,) says—

Εστιν πόλις Κανούος, επιχατη χθονος
Νειλον προς αυτην στοματι και προσχωματι.

When alluding to this word before, the allusion of the poet escaped my recollection, but it seems so very pertinent I could not forbear to cite it now.

The next words I shall attempt to explain are either from the New Testament, or at least connected with the times of the New Testament. Thus the word *Sanhedrim*, denoting the Jewish Council of Elders—and generally supposed to be derived from the Greek *Συνέδριον*, sitting together, and thence a council—seems to be more easily and more appropriately derived from the Celtic *reasaḡe*, *reasam*, a company of elders or senators.

In St. Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians, 11th chapter and 10th verse, there occurs a passage of some obscurity, according to the generally received translation. “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.” The word here translated *power* is conjectured to mean a *veil*, but whence the signification could be derived has not been ascertained; the word as it appears in our Greek Testament is *εξουσια*, and this certainly denotes power, but not a *veil*; but if it be recollected that St. Paul was writing to the Corinthians, and also that Celtic is the basis of the Greek language, it will not be thought strange that the apostle may have used a word to denote a *veil*, which might have been peculiar to Corinth, and handed down from the older language which preceded Greek. Certainly it is possible without much force to suggest a word not very unlike *εξουσια*, and which would signify a *veil*—thus, in Celtic *eaċċor* signifies a face or countenance—and if with this we combine the Greek word *σκια*, a shade, or the Celtic *Sciā* a protection or cover, we shall have a compound denoting a *shade* or *cover for the face*, that is, a *veil*, and which in Greek letters would be expressed perhaps as *εξοσια*, which not being understood by transcribers, might easily be corrupted into *εξουσια*, a word more familiar, and denoting power.

Another word to be met with in the New Testament, is *Beelzebul*, the name of the Prince of the Devils, a name which is generally supposed to signify “lord of lies,” a most incongruous designation for the arch fiend. The true appellation, however, may be analysed by means of Celtic, and it will then be found to import what the sacred narrative expressly states, that it denoted the “chief of the devils.” To make this apparent, then, we must bear in mind that though

our received version adopts the form *Beelzebul*, yet there is no doubt that the form *Beelzebul*, or, in Greek characters, *Βεελζεβούλ*, is the reading of the best manuscripts; and whoever will consult Kitto's “Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature,” at this word, will find several of the explanations which have been proposed for it. To make intelligible, however, what we consider the true explanation, we must premise a few words relative to certain changes of letters in different dialects; for example, in Eastern dialects we find the letters *d* and *z* frequently interchanged; thus, the word denoting *gold* is, in Hebrew, *בְּזִבְחָן*, whilst, in Chaldee, it is *בְּזִבְחָן*, and in like manner, the letter *zal* of the Persians, which is pronounced like our *z*, is pronounced by the Arabs as if it were *d*, and in Spanish the last letter of the alphabet, which resembles the last of ours in shape, is yet pronounced like our *th*, as *Badakoth* for *Badajoz*. This being understood, it is but necessary to make the so common interchange of these two letters, *d* for *z*, in the name we are considering, and the true origin of it will appear without much difficulty; thus, writing *Βεελζεβούλ* instead of *Βεελζεβούν*, it will be seen that the first part of the compound, about which there is no discussion, signifies *lord*, and the latter part is but another way of writing the common appellation for the Prince of Evil, namely, the Devil, in Irish, *ബാബാൾ*, which Irish word is not to be derived from the Greek *ബാബാൾ*, but is original, and significant in its own language, and has quite a distinct meaning from that usually given to the Greek word, and one more accordant with Scripture; for, according to O'Brien, it denotes “spirit of the air,” and Satan is called by the Apostle Paul, “the Prince of the power of the air”—and so the whole compound would express “Lord or Prince of the Devils.”

That no particular license has been taken in the foregoing derivation will be seen by a reference to Kitto at the article *Beelzebul*, where an attempt is made to explain that name, on the same principle of an interchange of letters, is mentioned, for there we find—“If the reading *Beelzebul* were retained, it might, according to the proposal of Storr and Döderlein, receive some support from the Syriac *Beeldebo*, *bold of hatred*.” If, however, the change were thought too violent, a more easy derivation for the latter part of the name *Beelzebul* might be proposed from the Celtic *ſabāl*, protecting, preserving; and if the god of *Ekron*, mentioned in the first chapter of the First Book of Kings, were of the same name with that which we have been considering, it would be more appropriate to call him “the protecting or preserving Lord,” than to call him “Lord of flies.” It is well known that the Jews, by some slight change of letters, used to alter names of honour into those of contempt, and so they may have changed *Beelzebul* into *Beelzebub*, instead of *vice versa*, as has been conjectured. It is more natural to suppose that *Aluziab*, when sick, would have sent to “the preserving Lord,” than to “the God of flies,” to learn whether he should recover from his sickness or not; but, notwithstanding that Celtic in this way affords a very good interpretation of the name *Beelzebul*, I confess the meaning of “Prince or Lord of the Devils” seems to me a better interpretation, even though attended with some difficulties.

Beelzebul was an object of worship to the Philistines, and another of their deities was *Dagon*, mentioned in the First Book of Samuel. This idol is supposed to have had the figure of a being half man and half fish, the upper part resembling a man, and the lower a fish; and the name *Dagon* is generally derived from the Hebrew word *dag*, a fish, though others derive it from *dagan*, corn, as if its name denoted the being who presided over agriculture.—The name, however, appears to be Celtic, and to denote the two-fold form of the idol, for, in Irish, *da-ċōn*, pronounced *Dagon*, signifies bimorphous, or double-bodied, and the compound is formed in the same manner as the more familiar word, *da-beāča*, amphibious, literally, two-lived. There was a temple of *Dagon* at *Astibol*, which was destroyed by *Jonathan*, the brother of *Judas Maccabæus*, only about a century and a half before the Christian era.

ALEX.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN VENTILATION.

At a time when cholera, with an appalling voice, calls the most earnest attention to house-ventilation, and dreadful explosions and loss of life in mines demand no less anxious efforts to devise means for the prevention of these calamities, we have much satisfaction in anticipating that human residence may easily be supplied with a continual circulation of wholesome air, and the most dangerous subterranean works be preserved against accidents from foul currents or fire-damps. Dr. Chowne has enrolled a patent for Improvements in Ventilating Rooms and Apartments, of the perfect efficacy of which, we believe, there cannot be a doubt, and on a principle at once most simple and unexpected. Without going into details at present, we may state that the improvements are based upon an action in the Syphon which had not previously attracted the notice of any experimenter,—viz., that if fixed with legs of unequal length, the air rushes into the shorter leg, and circulates up, and discharges itself from the longer leg. It is easy to see how readily this can be applied to any chamber, in order to purify its atmosphere. Let the orifice of the shorter leg be disposed where it can receive the current, and lead it into the chimney (in mines, into the shaft), so as to convert that chimney or shaft into the longer leg, and you have at once the circulation complete. A similar air syphon can be employed in ships, and the lowest holds, where disease is generated in the close berths of the crowded seamen, be rendered as fresh as the upper decks.

The curiosity of this discovery is that Air in a syphon reverses the action of Water, or other liquid, which enters and descends or moves down in the longer leg, and rises up in the shorter leg! This is now a demonstrable fact; but how is the principle to be accounted for? It puzzles our philosophy. That air in the bent tube is not to the surrounding atmosphere as water, or any heavier body, is evident; and it must be from this relation that the updraft in the longer leg is caused, and the constant circulation and withdrawal of polluted gases carried on. But be this as it may, one thing is certain—that a more useful and important discovery has never been made for the comfort and health of civilized man. We see no end to its application. There is not a sanitary measure suggested to which it may not form a most beneficial adjunct. There is not a hovel, a cellar, a crypt, or a black, close hole anywhere, that it may not cleanse and disinfect. We trust that no time will be lost in bringing it to the public test on a large scale, and we foresee no impediment to its being immediately and universally adopted for the public weal. We ought to remark that fires or heating apparatus are not at all necessary; and that, as the Specification expresses it, "this action is not prevented by making the shorter leg hot whilst the longer leg remains cold, and no artificial heat is necessary to the longer leg of the air-syphon to cause the action to take place."

(Extraordinary as this may appear, we have witnessed the experiments made in various ways, with tubes from less than an inch to nearly a foot in diameter, and we can vouch for the fact being perfectly demonstrated. Light gas does descend the shorter leg when heated, and ascend the longer leg where the column of air is much colder and heavier!—ED. L. G.)

NEW ZEALAND.

We have much pleasure in announcing that in a letter from Mr. Walter Mantell (eldest son of Dr. Mantell) dated, Wellington, April 28, that enterprising young naturalist states that, during his late expedition through the South Island, as Government Commissioner for the purchase and settlement of lands, he made an extensive and interesting collection of fossils and rock specimens. He had also formed a most valuable series of Moas' bones, comprising upwards of 400 specimens, and referable to several distinct species; among these are *crania* with mandibles, bones of the *sternum*, and other rare and instructive parts of the skeleton. Mr. Mantell

also mentions having obtained the entire series of the bones of two feet of the largest species of *Dinornis*, belonging to the same individual, including the tarsometatarsals; the latter were imbedded upright, with all the toe bones in their natural position, the two feet being a yard apart, as if the bird had been mired, and sunk down in the swamp, and perished on the spot. It is expected these important additions to our New Zealand fossil remains will reach England before the close of the year. It may interest the palaeontologist to learn that *ammonites* and *belemnites* are mentioned by Mr. Walter Mantell among the fossils from the Middle Island of New Zealand.

Lient. Maury's Chart of the North-East Trade-Winds, one of a series of wind and current charts for the North Atlantic Ocean, is a very interesting illustration of an attractive branch of physical geography, besides being a valuable guide for practical navigation. The records of ships' logs, as in Col. Reid's storm charts, furnish its data, and figures show the number of vessels that have lost or found, and the latitude in which they have lost and found, certain winds and calms in each month between given meridians, from 10° to 80° west. The winds are the north-east trades and the south-west monsoons, and the calms those above the trades and the equatorial calms. The following is an example of the information the wind-chart affords:—In August the southern limits of the north-east trades stretch from 16° to 9° north, between 20° and 25° west, and from 13° to 10° north, between 30° and 35° west. Between 20° and 25° west the equatorial calms prevail, from 15° to 8° north in August; and from 5° north to 5° south in March. And in August the region of south-west monsoons extends from 13° north to 1° south between the meridians of 20° and 25° , whereas between the meridians of 40° and 45° these winds blow but occasionally, and then they extend only from 12° to 5° north.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

THE CHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL MEETING.

HAVING fully reported the interesting proceedings at this meeting, we have only a few promised words to add in the winding up. Mr. Croker writes us that the paper read by his son, Mr. Dillon Croker, was communicated, not written, by the President; and that the paper read by Mr. Croker himself, on the ancient customs of Cheshire, was the production of our valued contributor, Mr. Llewellyn,* of Plymouth. The paper on Milton's Widow was by the Rev. Benjamin Mardon of London, and not the Rev. Mr. Marsden of Nantwich.

The attendance of the band of the 46th Regiment, granted by its Colonel and the Commandant of the District, Major-General Delaware, contributed much to the enjoyments of this *réte* and excursions.

Dr. Bell, whose letter was inserted in our last number, had, while it was in type but unpublished, issued the prospectus of a work on "the Commemorative Year 1849," therein alluded to, proving that in this year concurs the three successive intervals of 500 years, the anniversaries of three of the most remarkable events in British History—viz., the death of Round Table Arthur, the birth of Alfred the Great, and the institution of the Order of the Garter.

A nice little pamphlet has been published at the Mail Office, Liverpool, giving a pleasing account of the visit of the Association to that great emporium of commerce, and of its reception by the Historic Society and the Mayor.

Mr. J. Mayer, the Hon. Curator of the Historic Society, has also illustrated some of the most interesting localities by picturesque etchings, which will long remain favourites in the portfolios of the members who are fortunately possessed of them. We have an old house at Madeley, Staffordshire, admirably done, by R. W. Buss; another of Dimsdale Hall, near Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffordshire; costumes; the house in which Fenton, the poet, was born, at Shelton, in that county; copies of two

* Author of a New Handbook of Norwich, and a very diligent and successful popular antiquary.—ED. L. G.

fresco portraits in the house of Joseph Mayer, goldsmith, Liverpool (of the years 1560 and 1617); and other reminiscences, such as archaeologists love to cherish.

The Mechanics' Institution at Liverpool is another feature worthy of notice, though described in *The Liverpool Journal* so long ago as June 18th, 1840. It does much credit to all concerned.

Fac similes of Holographs of James Brindley, the great projector of Canal Navigation, are among Mr. Mayer's productions. The dates are 1761-2, and a note of his expenses in London amusing; for he pays 18s. for shirts, 6s. 6d. for shows, 7s. 6d. for stockings, 4s. for pocketcloths, 1s. for buckles, and 1s. 6d. for gloves, &c.—in all 1l. 10s. 10d. "Remained in my Pokit, 1l. 2s. 4d."

Our first review in this sheet will show how beneficially these congresses are acting upon the country at large, and we feel much satisfaction that the part taken by the *Literary Gazette* in nourishing this spirit, and making itself the organ of Archaeological discovery and improvement has been met in so gratifying a manner.*

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

THE Select Committee has issued its Report, and the evidence on which it rests, of which the *Times* takes the following notice, which we copy, reserving our own observations for a future period. The Report commences by adverting the successful experiment of throwing open to the public free galleries, museums, and libraries, such as the British Museum, the National Gallery, Hampton-court, &c.—a change for the better which has not been abused by the people, but which, on the contrary, has been distinguished by "much rational enjoyment and much popular enlightenment." But it is manifest that the intellectual cravings of the community at large cannot be satisfied by merely local libraries like the British Museum; and one improvement, therefore, remains to be accomplished—viz., "the establishment of public libraries freely accessible to all the people." The general intellectual superiority of the lower orders abroad, and their preference of intellectual pastimes to the gross and debasing sensual "pleasures" to which the English are so unhappily addicted, is alleged to confirm the theory of benefits derived by the former in regard to open libraries. Apart from the beneficial effect of much reading on the public generally, must be considered the convenience of authors. It is shown that France possesses 107 public libraries (Paris alone 7); Belgium, 14; Prussia, 44; Austria, 48; Saxony, 6; Bavaria, 17; Denmark, 5; Tuscany, 9; and America, 100+. To all these admission is granted unrestrictedly—to poor and rich—to foreigners and natives without distinction. Most of the great cities of Europe also possess good lending libraries for the convenience of the community. Yet it is stated that we have only one library in Great Britain equally accessible—viz., the "Humphrey Chetham" library, at Manchester. It is true that there are several "old but scanty" libraries in London; but they would be totally inadequate, even if improved, to meet the wants of our extended population. The committee proceed to discuss the question whether the British Museum, with the collegiate and other privileged libraries, ought not, as a compensation for their privileges, to throw open their literary treasures to the public. They resolve it in the affirmative. They see no sound reason why any one should be debarred from free access to the Museum and the other libraries receiving books from authors or grants from Parliament, such as Sion College in London, the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, and the library

* Before laying down our pen we must observe that a good octavo of 160 pages, containing the Proceedings and Papers of the first Session of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, printed under the direction of the Council, was courteously put into our hands, and we rejoice to see that it consists of very curious contributions, not only of much local but national interest, showing how well the Association has begun, and how richly it promises for the future illustration of the antiquities of two such ancient counties as Lancashire and Cheshire.—ED. L. G.

† We do not know whence these statistics are derived; they differ widely from data in our possession.—ED. L. G.

of the Queen's Inns, Dublin. They think a similar change possible, if not impending, in the principle of admission to the University libraries, the present regulations of which are very anomalous and restrictive.

The cathedral libraries (founded on a theological basis) might be formed into nuclei of provincial libraries from the ancient cities of the country. The revival and extension of "parish libraries" is also recommended by the framers of the report before us. The committee suggest the lending out of the duplicate copies of the works in the British Museum, the presentation of the triplicates to provincial libraries, and the opening of the reading room of the Museum to those who desire to frequent it in the evening. They show how existing London libraries might be enlarged and opened to the public, and recommend a grant of the public money for the formation of new "public libraries," the advance to be made on certain clear and distinct conditions, as well as the granting of powers by Parliament to enable town councils to levy a small rate for the creation and support of urban libraries, for which a precedent already exists in the Museums Act of 1845. The committee also advert to the expediency of establishing village libraries, on the formation of which so much of the future character of our agricultural population may depend; and by which the frivolous books which now circulate amongst the ignorant rustics may be replaced by "sound, healthy, and genuine English literature." Now that emigration is so much resorted to, it is especially desirable that our emigrants should be previously supplied with exact and ample information on the subject of their future countries. The committee, in concluding their able and interesting report, revert to the general question. They recognise, in the establishment of libraries, the general principles that they should be based on a firm and durable foundation; that they should be freely accessible to all the public; that they should remain open during the evening; and that they should, as far as possible, be lending libraries. The last consideration is one of the highest importance, and should be an essential element (as it is abroad) in the formation of our libraries. The committee advert with pleasure to the regular system of international interchange of books which has been established between France and the United States of America, and between the latter republic and this country, and transiently denounce the vexatious fiscal impost levied on foreign books as a grievous tax on knowledge, and another impediment to the extension of libraries. The thanks of the committee are especially awarded to the witnesses examined before them, including M. Guizot, M. Van der Weyer, M. Libri, M. Meyer, and Mr. Stevens, of the United States.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

March 22nd.—The Secretary read the first portion of a supplemental paper to one inserted in the 1st Part of the 3rd Vol. of the Society's *Transactions*, concerning Greek epigraphs stamped on the handles of ancient diots, by Mr. J. L. Stoddart. Since the publication of his former treatise, the author has obtained additional proofs of the reasons he then assigned for supposing that the vessels found at Athens were not of Athenian manufacture, but were brought in the course of trade from Rhodes and other places; and that such lettered manubria might be traced into the Russian provinces along the shores of the Black Sea; these additional evidences he in the present paper brought together, as affording new data for tracing the commercial intercourse of maritime cities peopled by the Greeks. Along the coasts of the Crimen, the sites of many ancient Greek cities are covered with broken pottery, yielding occasionally entire vases, the ordinary pointed diots of commerce. Pallas had already observed such remains, in 1793, on the site of the ancient Pantecapenum, which he says is studded over with fifty large mounds; and Dr. Clarke noticed broken diots scattered over the emplacement of Chersonesus, near the modern Sebastopol, as well as on the site of Olbia, in the province of Cherson. M. de Koepen was the first to recognise that the manubria found at Olbia were marked with the same flower as

that on the Rhodian coins, and that the vases so marked must have contained wine and other fluids imported into Olbia from Rhodes. Further illustrations of these Olbian epigraphs were communicated by M. de Blarenberg to Professor Boeckh, and inserted in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum*. Thus, observed Mr. Stoddart, the stamped manubria of Rhodian diots have already been discovered throughout Sicily, at Athens, at Alexandria, at Xanthus, and at Olbia; showing how widely the commerce of Rhodes had extended its ramifications about the Mediterranean and the Euxine. These remains prove that the Rhodians took to Greece the valuable wines of the coast of Asia Minor; and they must have brought from different countries much of the wheat consumed in Attica, for the production of which its own territory was not sufficient. Indeed, for a period of two centuries or more, the Rhodians must naturally have been the great shipowners and cornfactors of the Mediterranean. The author here introduced a sketch of the foreign trade of Rhodes, from its rise to commercial and naval eminence, after the capture of Tyre, in the same year in which Alexandria was founded, (an event which affords the earliest date for its intercourse with Olbia and the Euxine,) down to the reign of Vespasian, when it lost its independence. He here referred more particularly to the period of its history included between 221 and 182 B.C., which embraces three historical events arising out of its political relations with the Euxine:—1. The declaration of hostilities by the people of Rhodes against Byzantium, for the free passage of the Thracian Bosphorus, and the free navigation of the Black Sea, which shows the nature and importance of their trade. 2. The assistance rendered by Rhodes to Sinope when besieged, in 221 B.C., by Mithridates, King of Pontus, showing its intimate connexion with some of the Euxine cities. 3. The solemn embassy sent by the Rhodians to the Roman senate in the year 182 B.C., appealing to its authority in favour of Sinope, which Pharnaces II., another king of Pontus, had captured by surprise.

May 10th.—Having discussed the subject of the diots of Rhodes, met with on the sites of Euxine cities, Mr. Stoddart proceeded, in the concluding portion of his paper, to describe a great variety of epigraphs from other cities—*ex gr.* from Cnidus, from the Greek cities of Thrace, on the Aegean, from the Pontus Euxinus, and from the Cimmerian Bosphorus. Upon the whole, it appears from this and the former memoirs of the author, that Greek vase-stamps have been discovered throughout Sicily, at Alexandria, at Athens, at Xanthus, at Olbia, at the modern Sebastopol, and at Pantecapenum; and that those of which the origins are sufficiently authenticated are from the following cities.—Rhodes, Cnidus, Hierapytna, Corinth, Parium, Lysimachia, Thasos, Aenos, Sinope, Heraclea-Pontica, Teuthrania, Pontecapenum, and Olbia. As observation alone is wanting to collect and render available monuments of this kind,—for we have reason to believe, that the *debris* of many cities contain a profusion of such lettered manubria,—it is the opinion of the writer, that much light remains to be thrown from this source upon the commercial intercourse of Greek cities, and on some of their institutions. In the meantime, in addition to the valuable conclusions on these topics contained in his former paper, and in the former part of the present supplementary dissertation, he brought forward, in this reading, many important inferences and remarks bearing on such inquiries. It would appear that at Cnidus there existed two superior magistrates nearly equal in authority—the hierarchal Eponymus or priest of Helius, the highest national dignity; and the Demiurgus, answering to the Prytanis at Rhodes, who was at the head of the civil government. The name of the hierarch seems to have been stamped singly on the vase-handles in his first year, or when he served no more than one; when, however, he occupied the post longer, as his name ceased to be a precise date, that of the Demiurgus, who was always annual, was added to it; the same individual might successively serve both offices. Stamps which contain the official title Astynomus, are assignable to the cities of the Euxine, especially to Olbia, the chief emporium on the north coast of the Pontus Euxinus. Olbia,

Sinope, &c., received in these vessels, wine, oil, and probably wheat; exporting in return to Rome, the Mediterranean, and the cities on the southern coast of the Euxine, the produce of their renowned fisheries. The importance, in great commercial communities, of legalising their measures of value and capacity, is manifest; hence the impression of the state seal on the diots of Rhodes and Cnidus, as well as on their coinage. Wherever the title Astynomus is expressed, the diots were legalised under the authority of that annual magistrate. The ordinary diots of commerce were used long before the Rhodians succeeded to the commercial ascendancy of the Phoenicians; but the former people appear to have been the first to make use of such seals, about three centuries and a half before Christ.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

At a recent meeting, Mr. Seton, one of the Fellows, read a paper entitled "Observations on the History and Characteristics of Sepulchral Brasses, with Notices of some Scottish Examples." The communication referred to two brasses still existing at Aberdeen, hitherto unnoticed; to the well-known brass of the "Mynto's," Glasgow Cathedral; to that of the Regent Murray, formerly in St. Giles's church, whence it was only removed in 1829; and to one carried off from the ruins of the monastery of Inchcolm, in the Firth of Forth, a few years since, by a party of English tourists. (Do any of our readers know aught of this?) Besides this, Mr. Seton referred to the stone matrices still remaining in various parts of the country, from which the brasses have been removed at some unknown period, showing that sepulchral brasses were in common use in Scotland from a very early period down to the 17th century. We are gratified to learn that the society are now in correspondence with the noble descendants of the "Good Regent," with a view to the restoration of his monument and the replacing of his brass—with its inscription from the pen of George Buchanan—on its ancient site, in the old collegiate church of St. Giles, at Edinburgh. There was also read a "Notice, and a drawing of a Roman Inscribed Slab, recently found at Castlehill, the Third Station on the Wall of Antoninus, from the West end," by Mr. John Buchanan, Glasgow, with Illustrative Remarks. Communicated by Mr. Robert Chambers. About six miles north-west from Glasgow, and near the pretty parish church and antique hamlet of East, or New, Kilpatrick, is situated the small farm of Castlehill. The line of the Wall of Antoninus passes through the centre, and over the most elevated portion of the property. The farm stands high, and commands a most extensive and beautiful prospect of country, stretching to the blue outline of the Argyleshire hills on the west, to the conical-shaped Tinto on the east; while towards the south, the whole broad valley of the Clyde is spread out like a panorama, with its finely undulating surface dotted with small towns and villages, the view being only terminated by the hills melting away in the distance. Such a commanding position was too important to escape the practised military eye of the Roman officers, in their exhortation of that part of the country; and there is accordingly good ground for supposing that Castlehill was very early selected by them for a fortified post—probably by Agricola himself, when the isthmus between the Clyde and the Forth was studded with "castles," before the connecting wall had been constructed by Urbicus. A small fort, therefore, existed here; and it forms the *third*, in consecutive order, from the western termination of the great line of fortification, known by the country people as "Graham's Dyke," counting from West Kilpatrick, on the brink of the Clyde. There is a small wood on the top. Its black firs, more than half a century old, mark the lines of the camp, which in point of size was only third-class, as compared with the rest of the Wall-stations. Within the wood is an open area, and in the centre one solitary tree, probably designed to indicate where the praetorium had been. A ring fence encloses the Camp-proper, which is left uncultivated. All traces of the ramparts have long disappeared; but a broad, shallow hollow marks

the course of the great Roman ditch, which ran along the north face of the fort. Immediately outside, or on the east of the little wood, is the quaint old-fashioned farm-house, with its barns projecting at right angles, on either side, in the old Scotch fashion. These outhouses, and in fact part of the farm-dykes, have been built with the stones taken from the Roman causeway and fortification, bearing the evident mark of the Roman chisel, and having the brick-like shape common to Roman ruins. On the south and west sides of the camp there are very steep slopes, toilsome of ascent, especially the latter, which stretch down to a dark and difficult ravine, called the Peel-glen, holding a little brawling burn. When at the bottom of this ravine, and looking upwards, the line of the great Roman ditch is seen coming down, like a faint, broad seam; and it must by no means be forgotten, that this dark, eerie spot, some parts of which are rarely visited by the sun's rays, is veritably reported to have been, if not even yet to be, a haunt of the fairies, so that it is thought rather daring to approach it after nightfall! Now, it was about *half-way down* this slope, between the camp and the haunted glen, that the Roman slab now to be described was lately discovered. The soil of the sloping ground is of stiff clay, and had been ploughed, but not deeply, by a former tenant. Lately a new tenant resolved to plough it thoroughly; and accordingly, in February, 1847, in ploughing deeply down hill, and only a few feet off the line of the wall (on the inner, or Roman side), when about half-way to the bottom, his progress was suddenly interrupted by some hard substance in the soil, which turned out to be a pretty large broad slab, with letters on it. The plough had broken off a small portion on one side, but the letters are all safe. The slab was fixed in the stiff clay soil *on its edge*, and in a diagonal position with reference to the line of the wall, not flatwise, as might from its peculiar shape have been expected. On further examination it was found to be a broad legionary slab, measuring 2 feet 6 inches long, by 2 feet 4 inches broad, and 5 inches in thickness. In the upper edge is a triangular-shaped indentation, to receive a dock, or tongue, from above, to keep it steady in its position. The back of it is quite rough, and the stone had evidently been fitted into a building, most probably into the southern face of the lower part of the wall itself. Round the inscribed face there is what is called the "cable-pattern," often to be met with on such slabs. The inscription itself is as follows:—

IMP. C.
T. AELIO
HADRIANO
ANTONINO
AVG. PIO. P.
VEX. LEG. XX. V
P. P. III

[Figure of a Boar.]

Underneath is the figure of a boar, the symbol usually adopted by the 20th Legion, and almost invariably to be met with in inscriptions by them. A drawing is herewith sent, and referred to. The purport of the inscription is a dedication to the Emperor Antoninus Pius, by Vexillatio of the 20th Legion, with their usual title, on occasion of having executed three miles of the work of the wall. There may have been paces also, but if so, the fracture has destroyed the numerals. How interesting to scan this curious relic of these long-forgotten builders! It does not appear, however, that the soldiers who inscribed this stone formed the garrison of Castlehill. Two other stones had been found here, a number of years ago, from which we may infer that this little hill-fort was occupied at one time by a detachment of the 2nd Legion, and at another by the 4th Cohort of Gaulish Auxiliaries. The latter had erected an inscribed stone to the field-deities, supposed the fairies, (vide *Caledonia Romana*, p. 305). Indeed, the locality of the operations of the 20th Legion, in the construction of the wall and their quarters, appear rather to have been to the *westward* of Castlehill, about the large camp of Duntocher—(No. 2 of the series)—or between the

place where the stone now described was found, (and which, it will be observed, was *outside* the Castlehill fort,) and *West Kilpatrick*. We have never met with any inscription or memorial of the 20th beyond or to the eastward of Castlehill, except in one instance, several miles off, near Auchindavie, the 8th wall-station. The intervening part of the fortification seems to have been constructed by the Castlehill garrison (the 2nd Legion), including the full strength of that corps, and by the 6th. Such are the facts attending this discovery; and they seem to suggest the following inferences:—1st, That the slab was *hid* in the soil, in all likelihood by the Castlehill garrison, when they were abandoning the spot. Had this large, broad, thin slab fallen out of its place in the wall by *accident*, it must, from its weight, have snapped in two. But, even if it had not, the impetus of the fall would have hurled it down the slope, in a succession of somersets; and, when it stopped, it would rest, not on its *edge*, but flatwise. The Emperor Antoninus Pius was held in great respect: this was an inscription to him, and commemorative of what was considered a meritorious achievement on the part of the soldiers,—thus affording *motive* for preventing the stone from insult by the wild natives, after the troops had quitted the spot. The same thing appears to have been done, and curious enough, by the very same Legion, too, (the 2nd,) at another wall-station (the 8th of the series) at Auchindavie. There, in a large pit, were found, many years ago, several altars inscribed by a centurion, large iron hammers, much used and battered, and some other things.* May the soldiers, then, of this same corps at Castlehill, not have carefully lifted down the slab from its place, made a longitudinal cut in the stiff clay, and thrust the stone in endwise, covering it up? There seems every reason to believe that this was the cause of the singularity of position of the slab, on edge. 2nd. When the stone was in its fixed position in the wall, and facing the south, the profile of the boat would look towards the left, or *west*. Now, another stone, very much resembling this one, and by the same corps, was found, *about three miles farther west*,† the boar profile on which would, in like manner, if that stone were set up facing south, look to the right, or *east*; in other words, the boars would be facing each other. May these not, therefore, be twin-stones, set up, one at the east, the other at the west, ends of this particular portion of the fortification, to point out the range of the work performed by the Vexillatio there? It is true, that no quantity is indicated on the other stone, but this would not seem to invalidate the suggestion now made, the more especially as it appears otherwise difficult to account for the position of the slab in question in such an awkward and inconvenient place as half-way down a steep bank, with a difficult ravine between. Other instances of twin-stones have been ascertained, both to the westward of Duntocher and to the eastward of East Kilpatrick.‡ This stone has never been described before, so that the subject is quite fresh. It was purchased from the farmer last year, by John Buchanan, and is now in his possession.

A synopsis of the Museum in Edinburgh has recently been printed for the Society, and affords the particulars of a very considerable and interesting collection of every kind, commencing with donations soon after it was founded, in 1780.

But the largest and most valuable gift ever bestowed on the Society was received in 1846, by the Bequest of Edward W. Aniol Drummond Hay, Esq., (Her Majesty's Consul-General to the Barbary States, formerly the zealous Secretary of the Society, and a liberal contributor to its Museum,) of his whole Private Collection, including 603 Roman Gold and Silver Coins, upwards of 2000 Roman Brass, a large collection of Scottish, English, and Foreign Coins, besides Bronzes, Medallions, and other objects of antiquity, specified in the following pages."

* *Vide Caledonia Romana*, p. 323.

† *Vide Cal. Rom. p. 296*, and Plate 8th, Fig. 5.

‡ *Cal. Rom.*, pp. 295, 308—10.

The Stone period, the Bronze period, Roman, Greek, Anglo-Saxon, Mediæval, and Miscellanies from many foreign lands, furnish archeological remains, many of them of peculiar value; and those pertaining to Scotland, in particular, seem to be well deserving of the preservation they have reached. *Ex. gr.*

"Four large Amber Beads, formerly esteemed by the Macdonalds of Glencoo as a charm for the cure of blindness, and worn by the lady of that clan on the morning of the massacre. They were latterly in the possession of Mrs. Campbell, Glenlyon."

But we can only intimate the treasures, and must not embark in the numerous list.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

[In consequence of the week's dulness in Paris, and the President going to open railways, our Correspondent writes that he has not thought it worth while to send his usual letter.—ED. L. G.]

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

The *Göethe Festmahl*, or Centenary Festival, mentioned in recent gazettes, "came off" at Berlin, on the 28th ult. Many reminiscences of the poet were exhibited in the Saloon, and between four and five hundred tickets were issued on the occasion; too many, it should seem, for an orderly service and enjoyment of the dinner by the company, so that though the soup was put on the table at half-past three o'clock, the dessert did not make its appearance till near eight! After this long and dreary banquet, however, matters went more briskly. Loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, songs were sung, poetry was recited. Baron Alexander Von Humboldt presided; Professor Rosenkrautz delivered an oration on Göethe and his works, which lasted twenty minutes; a Herr Kopisch read a very long and tiresome composition which excited considerable impatience, and another paper by Herr Lichtenstein, on the intercourse among Göethe, Herder, and others, at the Court of Weimar, was not more popular. An address from the President was the triumph of the day. It was a preface to the *Göethe Album*, an institution about to be established by the King of Prussia for the union and patronage of genius, as at Weimar at the previous epoch, endeavoured to be described by Herr Lichtenstein. Towards the close of the *fête*, notwithstanding the inattention and noise that generally prevailed, M. Von Olfers delivered a speech on the Creative Arts, upholding them against the material spirit of the age; and M. Rotcher spoke of another association proposed to be founded in honour of this Centenary, and for the encouragement of the German language, and which plan, he said, was countenanced by the Kings of Prussia and Hanover, and other princes and states of Germany. At eight o'clock, Von Humboldt left the chair, and the rest of the festivity resolved into Wine and Song. The company was by no means distinguished, and the whole appears, like the Wedding Feast in *Hamlet*, to have been a poor and lame demonstration. Times of political excitement and revolution are most inimical to sciences, arts, poetry, literature, theatres, and popular amusements. In other parts of Germany, including Göethe's birth-place, the *fête* has not been more striking. Politics and poetry have no congeniality, and Revolutions are bad nurses of Literature.

Sir John Franklin.—The *Montreal Courier* of August 10th, states that Sir George Simpson had just returned from his annual tour of inspection through the Hudson Bay and north-western settlements of North America, and without having gathered a syllable of news respecting Sir John Franklin and his companions. Sir John Richardson was on his way back, and expected at Montreal early in September; but his exploring party, under the orders of Dr. Rae, of the Hudson's Bay Company, were to continue the search throughout the summer. The *Courier* takes a gloomy view of the likelihood of a successful issue, in consequence of this statement; but our readers will remember that from the first we never encouraged any sanguine hopes of the results of the overland

expedition, and will not therefore be more disheartened by its apparent failure.

International Copyright.—The *New York Literary World*, of the 18th August, in copying from us, gives the following aid of transatlantic opinion to this important question:—“The Paris correspondent of the London *Literary Gazette* introduces the subject of international copyright, with a statement that should commend itself to American interests. The movement on the part of Belgian authors is parallel with the expression of the feeling of our own writers in the premises, which has been made again and again, in repeated petitions to Congress. When our legislators discover that international copyright is a principle of the civilized world, universally admitted between the European states, they may acknowledge the conclusive reasonings of our home authors. Come from what quarter it may, any recognition of the question must be fruitful in results beyond. We hail, therefore, the agitation of the matter in Belgium, which has now an opportunity to redeem itself from the odium of the policy not long since sanctioned by King Leopold, who congratulated the country on this profitable species of pillage—from French authors.”—“Belgian authors and artists have begun to bestir themselves against the abominable system of literary and artistic piracy, which makes their country the scandal of Europe.”

MUSIC.

THE BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL. (From our own Correspondent.)

Birmingham, Thursday, 6th Sept., 1849.

THIS is now become the most noted of our provincial music meetings; it is a triennial reunion, and was first established in 1773, to aid the funds of the General Hospital. Until the year 1834, these meetings were held in St. Philip's, a fine-looking church, situated in an open square about the centre of the town, and on the highest part of it. The audiences soon became too numerous for accommodation, and the beautiful Hall was built, certainly one of the finest adaptations of the Greek style to be seen anywhere; and we are glad to see is now, after some ten years' slumber, in the process of completion. Since the last festival in 1846,—that memorable one at which poor Mendelssohn conducted his *Elijah*,—the interior has been decorated, according to the Greek model, with pale blues and reds, relieving the sculptured parts; and the gigantic organ, named amongst the largest and best in the world, has been very beautifully decorated with a sort of Greek arabesque in gilt. The effect of the Hall now is very imposing. That Mendelssohn thought highly of these festivals, of the organ, of the chorus, and the hall, was clearly evidenced by his composing *Elijah* expressly with a view to its being done here. The feeling for the great modern artist, shown amongst the *cognoscenti* here is truly delightful; every one seems to have an enthusiasm for his works, and no one is ignorant of his great fame. It has been said, that “fame in life brings more tears than smiles, and the dead hear not the praises life's sacrifice brings;” but in spite of this piece of melancholy wisdom, how one could fancy that the spirit of the great man was listening to the display of his noble works, *Elijah* and *Athaliah*, the subjects of the first two mornings' performance! The idea is favoured too by an admirable bust of him, just finished, from the *atelier* of Mr. Hollins, of Birmingham, which stands immediately in front of the orchestra in an attitude of listening. Over it waves the calm and clever baton of Costa; before him are his unrivalled band, increased by the addition of many, chiefly violins, from the band of Her Majesty's Theatre and the provinces. The chorus is mainly composed of the Royal Italian Opera chorus, with many efficient singers from other sources; the whole numbering about 500, and forming an extraordinary array of skill and power, and, in its quiescent state, enough to give one a thrill of expectation. Mr. Costa—for so we are glad to be able to call him, as one naturalised amongst us—conducts here for the first time; and it is very interesting to know

that it was here he made his musical *début* in 1829, as a tenor-singer. How different his position now, how deservedly has he gained the high honours that energy, untiring zeal, and great talent generally obtain! By long and patient exhibition of his clear and perfect understanding of his subject he has obtained the influence he possesses, and the sweep of his baton is respected and obeyed from a feeling of complete confidence in him. The first performance was the *Elijah*, which has now become almost as well known as the *Messiah*, and does not require more than general notice now. It was given with a power and beauty of expression never yet surpassed. The splendid chorus in E flat, “Thanks be to God,” and that in the second part, “Be not afraid,” were poured forth with the most imposing grandeur. A novelty was Mario singing the air, “Then shall the righteous shine forth,” an exquisite bit of his most tasteful singing, though we can't forgive him the liberty he took with the cadenza. The president, Lord Guernsey, signalled repetition of this, and “O rest in the Lord,” the chorus, “He, watching over Israel,” “Lift thine eyes to the mountains,” the trio unaccompanied, and the quartet in B flat, “O come every one that thirsteth.” The singers were the Misses Williams, Miss Stevens, a native of Birmingham, Castellan, Jetty de Treff; Messrs. Sims, Reeves, Pischek, T. Williams, and Machin, and Signor Mario. Though the *Elijah* has been so finely done at Exeter Hall, we cannot help feeling that it has never before been quite so perfectly rendered. The attendance was very good, though by no means crowded, and it was considered a good beginning to the festival. The concert in the evening was begun by the pastoral symphony of Beethoven, played with all the sweetness and delicacy, and all the grandeur and power we could wish. The overture to *Oberon* (Weber) was the other band performance; Thalberg played a solo, and Saiton and Sontag created quite a sensation, as might be expected, in her *Rode's* variations. Another great work of Mendelssohn's, *Athaliah*—or, as it has been called, *Athalie*, we presume after Racine, who has made the life of the Jewish Queen the subject of one of his tragedies—was performed on Wednesday morning, Mr. Bartley reciting the poem when it was introduced. This performance was delightful, and a real honour to the great composer; some parts have never been surpassed for expression and comprehensive employment of the orchestra. The overture is wonderfully rich in subject, so full of variety both in movement and character of tone employed; opening with the horns, and gradually oboe and flute, then into a flowing and exquisitely sweet strain for the violins, then passages for the four harps, and fine passionate bits for the violins ending in the grand *ensemble*, forms altogether a glorious composition. The unison chorus, “O Sinai!” was finely sung, and the original choral recitative, “What star in its glory,” was exceedingly well expressed. The charming duet, “Ever-blessed child,” was sweetly sung by Miss A. Williams and Miss Stevens. The lovely trio, “Hearts that feel that love thee,” was also well given. Then came the splendid march, played by the band in magnificent style, most exciting performance. This was repeated at the sign from the President. The chorus which follows has long been talked of as one of the finest in construction and expression, “Depart, depart.” The conversation is wonderfully clever, and the effect managed with consummate skill. These pieces were the great successes of the morning, and we came away full of admiration for *Athaliah* and Mendelssohn.

In the evening, we had the symphony in A minor (Mendelssohn), with the overture to *Leonora*, opening the second part of the concert. The vocal part of the entertainment was rather common-place, and was not much relieved by the playing of Thalberg in his fantasia on *Massaniello*, or by Mr. E. Chipp's variations on Haydn's “God preserve the Emperor,” which latter appeared to us somewhat of the tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee school. The whole selection was far too long to be agreeable, and many were glad to escape from the excessively-crowded hall. To-night (Thursday) we are all on the *qui vive* for

the magnificent symphony in C minor (Beethoven), and the *Walpurgis Nächte*, about which, and the *Messiah*, which was splendidly given this morning, another notice must be made.

Liverpool Philharmonic Festival.—The Liverpool Philharmonic Society, started by a few amateurs in 1839, have just completed their fine music-hall, in Hope Street, which may be considered amongst the finest rooms in the country. This event was celebrated by the gathering of most of the available talent of the day—Grisi, Viardot, Alboni, Mario, Lablache, Formes, Tagliafico, Reeves, with the instrumentalists Hallé, Benedict, Ernst, Piatti, Bottesini, and Vivier, together with a large proportion of the Royal Italian Opera band, and many selected from the players of Liverpool. The performances were continued through five days, and consisted of the *Elijah*, the *Me siah*, the *Lauda Sion*, and the *Stabat* of Rossini, the mornings of the first three days being occupied by miscellaneous concerts. The affair appears not to have passed off with good success; the violins suffered from the dampness of the walls, and most unluckily Hallé was prevented playing a concerto of Mendelssohn by his piano falling half a tone below the orchestra; on this account he substituted two of the *Lieds*, the *Folkslied* in A minor, and the *Frühlingslied* in A major, which he interpreted with his customary understanding and fine feeling. The evening concerts were found oppressively long, and contributed to damp the audience, as much as the walls did the fiddles.

VARIETIES.

Nelson's Daughter.—Mr. Pettigrew's interesting biography of Nelson having first established the paternity of his daughter Horatia, appears to have reawakened a strong sense of the national ingratitudo to the only offspring of its immortal naval hero, and of mother who (whatever were her moral errors) rendered the most important services to her country. Mrs. Ward, the wife of the Rev. Philip Ward, Vicar of Tenterden, is stated to be the mother of eight children, the grandchildren of Nelson of the Nile and Trafalgar! and to be very indifferently endowed with the gift of fortune. Can such a state of things require a comment? The date *obulmum Belisario* was not more disgraceful.

Irish National Education.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert are stated, in *The Dublin Evening Post*, to have given their patronage to the establishment of a school at Glasnevin for training of Schoolmasters. It is to bear the name of “The Victoria Training Establishment,” and the “Albert Agricultural School.”

Prince Albert's Birthday.—On this occasion Highland games and pastimes were again exhibited at Balmoral, in honour of the day: a circumstance in which we rejoice, as tending further to promote what we have always so earnestly recommended, the encouragement of healthful sports and recreations among the labouring classes and hard-working mechanics. No more effective or gratifying bond of union can be cultivated between high and low, rich and poor, employers and employed, in every walk of life. The good feelings of a single day have their influence for weeks, months, and years. Success, then, to Young England's revival of Old England's diversions!

The Exhibition of Industrial Products, patronized by Prince Albert, is already proceeding with initiative steps. The *Manchester Guardian* states that a deputation from the Society of Arts are concerning measures with the mayors of Manchester and Salford, and various commercial bodies in Lancashire, for bringing it to a successful issue. The design is extremely popular, and foreign manufacturers, the East India Company, and other sources capable of adding materially to its interest, have, it is said, entered warmly into the project.

Coral in Egypt.—It is stated that an important discovery of a coal mine towards Upper Egypt, and in the vicinity of the Nile has just been made.

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